

EC studying aid plan

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Community (EC) Commission is studying an aid plan for Palestinians living in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Territories, an EC official said Friday. A spokesman for the commission said the plan focused on tariff reductions for farm exports. He said the trade preferences would be the same as those the EC currently grants to Jordan and Israel. The spokesman declined to confirm reports that the plan would include 3 million to 4 million ECUs (dollars) in financial aid. The spokesman said the commission plan was still under discussion. Once finalised, the plan must be submitted to the EC Council of Ministers, the group's main decision-making body. Jordan is seeking about \$150 million a year over the next five years from foreign donors to assist people in the occupied territories. Only about \$4.6 million has been approved. That money will come from the United States this year.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordanian Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Afghan-Pakistan talks recess

GENEVA (AP) — The 4-year-old Afghan-Pakistan talks recessed Friday without a timetable for Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan, Pakistan's chief negotiator said. A statement from Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said both sides remained far apart on the timetable issue, which continued to be the principal outstanding issue on which depends the success for future negotiations. U.N. mediator Diego Cordovez said he handed a new proposal, on how to monitor troop withdrawal, to the Afghan and Pakistani delegations. An estimated 115,000 Soviet troops are in Afghanistan fighting a long, protracted war with rebels trying to overthrow the Soviet-backed government. "If there is a solution to this problem, a lot of other things will fall into place," said Mr. Cordovez, a United Nations under-secretary general from Ecuador. He would not elaborate on the proposal.

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Jordan to purchase Syrian wheat, lentils

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government has decided to purchase 100,000 tonnes of wheat, 100,000 tonnes of lentils and 100,000 tonnes of bran from Syria, according to Ministry of Supply Under-Secretary Abdullah Al Hawamdeh who returned to Amman from Damascus on Thursday after talks with Syrian officials. Mr. Hawamdeh headed a Jordanian delegation to the three days of talks. Mr. Hawamdeh said the new purchases are scheduled to arrive in Jordan during November.

France complains to Moscow over refugees

PARIS (R) — France has formally complained to Moscow about a flow of Third World refugees into West Berlin from the eastern part of the divided city and called for a halt to the influx, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Friday. He said the Soviet Union's Charge d'Affaires in Paris Konstantin Mozol was summoned to the Foreign Ministry on Thursday to hear French complaints over the issue. "France has asked the Soviet Union to do something to stop this abuse of the right of free circulation in the city," the spokesman said. He would not say if or how Moscow had responded. "We recalled our preoccupation over the influx of immigrants from Third World countries, that may cause trouble both in the western sector and beyond," he added.

Bubonic plague kills 22 in Uganda

KAMPALA (R) — Twenty-two people have died of bubonic plague in the Nebbi district of northwestern Uganda, the Ministry of Health said Friday. The disease broke out early this year around the small town of Pakha on the border with Zaïre. 370 kilometres northwest of the capital Kampala, and 252 people have been struck by the disease, the ministry said.

Reagan to undergo medical check-up

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan will undergo a urological evaluation on Saturday at Bethesda Naval Hospital, the White House announced Friday. It said the medical examination was unrelated to the president's colon cancer surgery more than one year ago.

5 journalists among 7 killed in Botswana

GABORONE, Botswana (AP) — Seven people, including five Scandinavian journalists, were killed in a traffic accident in Botswana, Danish Consul Rud Larsen said Friday. Mr. Larsen said the other two victims were a United Nations refugee worker and the driver of the mini-bus in which the group was travelling. Mr. Larsen said the seven were killed Thursday night when their vehicle was involved in a collision with a truck near the town of Senle in northern Botswana.

Government move to spend JD 125m aims at encouraging investment

Central Bank: New measures seek to 'liberalise money market' and boost banking

By Selameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A government investment programme involving an expenditure of JD 125 million over a period of two years and the introduction of new regulations on the banking and financial sectors are part of recent measures taken by the government to bolster the economy and boost investment in the Kingdom, the Central Bank said Friday.

Dr. Maher Shukri, the bank's deputy governor, said the programme represented "an accelerated investment within the context of the (1986-1990) five-year development plan."

A cabinet statement issued on Thursday said the government will reorganise the banking sector, spend more on housing, offer loans to farmers and increase spending on health projects. The decision was issued after the cabinet reviewed a joint memorandum submitted by the ministries of finance, industry and trade and the Central Bank.

Israeli soldiers allow settlers to pray in Jericho

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops allowed a Jewish settlers group to pray at what Jews view as a biblical era synagogue in Jericho on Friday after stopping a bigger militant group from entering late Friday, an army spokesman said. Militant leader Rabbi Moshe Levinger and a dozen other Jews were allowed to pray at the site in the occupied West Bank town mainly because their group was small, he said. About 200 militants led by parliamentarian Geula Cohen showed up at the site on Thursday, he said.

Cohen's group consisted largely of Gush Emunim members, who believe Jews have "God-given rights" to all of biblical Israel. An Israeli military commander told Cohen she could enter because of her parliamentary immunity but she refused to enter without the others.

The day before, Israeli troops kept Gush Emunim members from setting up a Jewish settlement. The group has set up many West Bank settlements but its efforts have dropped since Labour Prime Minister Shimon Peres took power in 1984.

In another development, a Palestinian from the West Bank was arrested on suspicion of ransacking a Jerusalem synagogue near the building where he was night watchman, police sources said.

In other developments — an army spokesman said Thursday Israel will turn over an army training field in northern Galilee to local Arab villages for agricultural use.

An Israeli committee that included Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin finalised the decision to return the land bordering the Arab village of Saknin, Israel radio reported.

Three Palestinians were injured on Thursday when a bomb exploded in a police garage in Israeli-occupied Gaza, military sources said.

They said all three worked in the garage, and one of them was seriously injured. The army immediately began searching for suspects.

In June, three firebombs were thrown at an Israeli army vehicle in the Gaza Strip, but caused no damage or injuries.

the programme will be from the five-year plan's budget and a JD 25 million loan from the Social Security Corporation to be repaid annually over a period of 10 years with an interest rate of 9 per cent.

In a brief interview with the Jordan Times, Dr. Shukri said the thrust of the new programme is aimed at "liberalising the money market" through the introduction of new regulations on banks and moneychangers.

He said the government intends to "float down" interest rates to encourage investments but did not say when the decision would become effective. He said that a

decree may have to be issued to that effect.

He explained that the decision by the government to increase the capital base of banking institutions through mergers was aimed at "strengthening the banks' dealing capacity and improving their services." He said the measure "will decrease the number of investment banks in the Kingdom."

To compensate (moneychangers) we have decided to allow them to merge together to get an equity base of JD 4 million plus JD 2 million in floating shares (to the public) to become an investment bank," Dr. Shukri said.

Dr. Shukri confirmed that there was no intention to allow new foreign banks to establish branches in the Kingdom.

He said the government has decided, however, "to scale down the scope of operations for moneychangers and limit them to dealing with banknotes."

Responding to a question on whether the Central Bank was facing a decline in foreign currency reserves, Dr. Shukri said: "What is really happening is

a shift in foreign currency reserves." He said that Jordan is lending Iraq \$500 million to be repaid over a period of four years. "If you count the \$500 million out, then yes, we have a decline," Dr. Shukri said. "But, including them means we have increasing, or at least stable, reserves."

A prominent Jordanian economist said he viewed the plan as mainly aimed at attracting foreign capital and encouraging Jordanian expatriates to invest in the Kingdom. "By introducing this programme, the government is actually expediting the five-year development plan," Dr. Fahed Faneek said in an interview with the Jordan Times. "It is not really a radical departure from the original plan, rather an accelerated continuation," he added.

Dr. Faneek predicted that the government was most likely to decide to "float interest rate so that they will find their own level. Naturally, they will go down." Reviewing the impact of such a decision, Dr. Faneek said the move was "good for investors and bad

(Continued on page 3)

Carbomb kills 17, injures 83 in busy W. Beirut shopping area

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A car bomb driven by a 25-year-old blonde exploded in a busy shopping centre in west Beirut on Friday, killing 17 people and wounding 83, police said.

Hospitals issued radio appeals for urgent blood donations to cope with the influx of casualties from the blast, which went off at 11:55 a.m. in Tark Jeddah district.

Police said a blonde woman drove a brown Fiat packed with 50 kilograms of explosives into Tark Jeddah's Afif Tibi Street and parked it at the entrance to Al Bashra apartment building.

Aff Tibi Street housed the nerve centre of the Palestine Liberation Organisation until the PLO withdrew from Beirut in 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

The PLO offices in that street were the target of one of the heaviest car bombings in Beirut since the 1975 outbreak of Lebanon's civil war.

Witnesses quoted by Reuters said Syrian and Lebanese troops fired automatic rifles in the air to clear a way for rescue workers rushing injured to local hospitals.

The blast blew a hole in one building and set dozens of vehicles ablaze. Acrid smoke hung over

the nearby Arab University, affiliated to Egypt's University of Alexandria.

The explosion, the second in the mainly Muslim sector in the past 10 days, follows the deployment of Syrian and Lebanese troops in west Beirut's teeming southern suburbs on Aug. 4 in a bid to extend their month-long drive against militia anarchy.

The latest attack brings to more than 70 the number of people killed in a spate of explosions in west and mostly Christian east Beirut in just under two weeks.

A car packed with a quarter-tonne of explosives blew up in the densely populated 'Ain Rummaneh residential district in east Beirut July 28, killing 32 people and wounding 140.

The next day another bomb-laden car exploded at a busy market in west Beirut's Barbir district, killing 25 people and injuring 170.

No-one has claimed responsibility for any of the bombings that kindled fears of further deadly retaliations. A total of 66 people were killed and 301 wounded in a spate of three car bombings that rocked Beirut's two sectors within four days in August.

Zimbabwe and Zambia vow to pursue sanctions

HARARE. Zimbabwe (Agencies) — Both Zimbabwe and Zambia said on Friday they would continue to oppose South Africa despite economic measures adopted against them by Pretoria.

Zimbabwean Prime Minister Robert Mugabe said he would enforce Commonwealth-ordered economic sanctions against South Africa and exhorted Zimbabweans to brace themselves for an "economic war."

"All thought about luxury and comfort will have to go. It is just like a war... Zimbabwe will never die," Mr. Mugabe told a news conference after his return from a summit of seven Commonwealth leaders in London.

He said he will implement 11 sanctions on South Africa as agreed by the leaders, except British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, "to the full" by year's end.

The embargoes include a ban on all air links with South Africa and imports of agricultural produce, coal, iron, steel and uranium.

South Africa, Zimbabwe's southern neighbour and its main trading partner, already has reacted by taxing its neighbouring states' trade. South African customs officers, saying they are carrying out a survey, also have

slowed black neighbouring states' imports and exports by checking cargo transiting by air, rail and road.

Mr. Mugabe said Zimbabwe would ban all air links with South Africa, including overlying rights by international airlines and landing facilities for carriers serving South Africa.

He said he expected other members of the 49-nation Commonwealth to impose embargoes agreed in London by year's end.

In an interview published on Friday, a Zambian official said Zambia would continue to call for tough sanctions against Pretoria despite the South African retaliatory measures aimed at delaying essential imports.

The Zambia Daily Mail quoted Daniel Lisulo, chairman of the ruling UNIP Party's political and legal affairs committee, as saying the South African moves would have an even more serious impact than the 1965 closure of the border between Rhodesia and the rebel state of Zambia, now Zimbabwe.

But he added: "We are still going to press for sanctions. There will be no change in our stand against South Africa."

Jordan and Egypt urge Arabs to honour Joint Defence Pact

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Egypt have appealed to all Arab countries to honour the Joint Defence Pact, which commits Arab states to help one another in the event of an external attack on any Arab country, and urged them to extend meaningful help to the Arab inhabitants of the Israeli-occupied territories.

A press statement issued on Thursday at the end of a two-day visit by His Majesty King Hussein to Alexandria where he held talks with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt called on Arab and Muslim countries, including the people of Iran, to work for ending the Gulf war and to allow the two neighbouring Muslim states — Iraq and Iran — to live in peace.

The Arab and Islamic countries ought to try to make Iran respond favourably to the four-point peace plan offered by President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, the statement said. The Iraqi plan provides for guarantees for the interests of all people in the region and ensures security and stability in the Gulf region, it added.

According to the statement, the King and President Mubarak reviewed at length all aspects of the Gulf war, and current Arab affairs with particular attention to

the danger inherent in Iran's persistence in pursuing its aggressive war on Iraq.

An identity of views emerged from the meeting following a detailed analysis and assessment of the situation in the Gulf region and the dangers threatening the Arab nation, the press statement said.

It said the two leaders reviewed different aspects of the Middle East question and the Palestine problem and stressed their firm stands vis-a-vis a just and lasting peace that guarantees the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. Such a peace can be achieved through an international conference in which all concerned parties can participate, the statement added.

The two leaders reaffirmed the need for supporting the Palestinian people living in the occupied territories and providing them with means enabling them to hold on to their lands and their homes.

Both leaders reviewed Jordanian-Egyptian relations and expressed satisfaction with the progress of their development.

Egyptian-Jordanian cooperation was at the centre of a separate meeting chaired by the

prime ministers of Jordan and Egypt in Cairo on Thursday morning.

The meeting was attended by the Jordanian delegation accompanying King Hussein to Alexandria. It included Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, and Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri in addition to Jordan's Ambassador in Cairo Hussein Hammami.

On the Egyptian side it was attended by Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid. Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor returned to Jordan at the end of the visit and landed in Aqaba Thursday.

Upon his return home King Hussein sent President Mubarak a cable voicing appreciation for the hospitality accorded to him, the Queen and the Jordanian delegation and praising Egypt's pan-Arab stand and national policies. King Hussein pointed in his cable to the president's support for Iraq in the face of the Iranian aggression which threatens the stability and security of the whole Gulf region. He wished the Egyptian people further progress and prosperity.

Heavy air raids continue in escalated Gulf war

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iran and Iraq reported heavy air raids and artillery bombardment on each other's military and industrial targets on Friday, and Baghdad said 13 people were killed in the air raids.

Iranian air raids and shelling of civilian areas in three Iraqi towns also wounded 60, including several women and children, Iraq said.

An Iraqi communiqué said an Iranian plane attacked living quarters in two small towns 80 kilometres northeast of Baghdad, killing six people, wounding 31, and demolishing three houses.

Two Iranian planes later attacked Al Amara on the main Baghdad-Basra road, killing five people, including three children, and wounding 24 others, the communiqué said.

Basra, Iraq's second city, came under Iranian shelling that killed two civilians and wounded five others, it added.

Iraq and Iran have reported tit-for-tat strikes on towns during the past three weeks, giving rise to fears of a resumption of a "war of the cities" similar to one in which several hundred people were killed early last year on both sides of the Gulf war front.

Iraq said again Friday that it would retaliate for such attacks. The communiqué said its reaction would be "heavier and more painful than that of the past."

Iranian President Ali Khamenei charged that the Iranian operations were in retaliation for Iraqi attacks.

Mr. Khamenei told worshippers at Friday prayers in Tehran: "We have started to retaliate and will continue as long as Iraq keeps up its attacks."

Mr. Khamenei again rejected a peace offer made by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in an "open letter" to Iranian leaders last week.

In Washington, the U.S. government urged Iran on Wednesday to halt its war with Iraq and said rejection of the peace proposal from Baghdad was tragic.

Iraq on Thursday warned Iran of "devastating measures" in retaliation to raids on civilian targets.

"While we pray to Allah for mercy for the martyrs and the injured, we declare to our great people, to international and Arab public opinion and to the oppressed people of Iran... we shall deal with the rulers of Iran at the appropriate time," said an Iraqi communiqué.

Iraqi jets cripple 2 tankers, page 2

Hassan II reaffirms pan-Arab commitment

By Suleiman Al Qudah
with agency dispatches

RABAT — King Hassan II said on Thursday that despite his meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres, Morocco will lead Arab countries in the event of a new war with the Jewish state.

King Hassan, 57, spoke at a two-hour news conference held at his mosaic palace in Rabat exclusively for Arab journalists and representatives of the Middle East media.

"If war breaks out between Israel and the Arabs for any reason, Morocco will lead Arab forces to the battlefield," he said. "There should be no doubt about that."

King Hassan said that during the two-day summit, he and Mr.

Peres discussed the eight-point Fez plan which the Arab League adopted during a 1982 summit at Fez, Morocco.

The plan calls for Israeli withdrawal from all territories occupied in 1967 and the creation of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. It also contained implicit recognition of Israel.

King Hassan said Mr. Peres rejected the idea of a withdrawal or the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Their meeting last month was praised by Washington, but enraged Arab hardliners. Algeria and Syria called the meeting an act of "black treason." Syria severed all ties with Morocco.

Algeria has been at odds with

(Continued on page 4)

Peres and Shamir differ over Mideast conference

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir opposes a full-scale Middle East peace conference but would accept a meeting for endorsing results of direct Arab-Israeli talks.

This statement of Mr. Shamir's position differed from that of Prime Minister Shimon Peres who has said he would accept a form of "international umbrella" for direct Arab-Israeli talks.

The spokesman said Mr. Shamir explained his view on Friday to Ion Stoian, a Romanian envoy here to seek clarifications on current Israeli positions.

The spokesman said he saw little significance in the different positions of Mr. Peres and Mr. Shamir, who head rival wings of Israel's shaky coalition government.

Mr. Shamir would view an international meeting after direct talks as similar to the role played by the United States in negotiations that led to the signing of the Israeli-Egyptian treaty in 1979, the ministry official said.

Both men and the United States favour direct talks instead of an international conference.

Mr. Shamir, in remarks broadcast on Friday on Israel Radio, said he opposed an international peace conference on the Middle East, "with or without the participation of the Soviet Union."

Mr. Peres alluded to his differences with Mr. Shamir in a speech Thursday night. He has said Israel would accept Soviet participation in an international

(Continued on page 4)

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INSIDE

- * Israelis say Mubarak gave assurance of normal ties, page 2
- * Arab council plans hospital in Jerusalem, page 3
- * Pollard and the Armageddon Network, page 4
- * India — the 'secret famine', page 5
- * Ferry brawl mars England's hopes of returning to UEFA, page 6
- * U.S. deficit may top \$224 billion, page 7
- * Ex-CIA agent's defection raises questions of U.S. bungling, page 8

Iraqi jets cripple two Iran-chartered tankers

BAHRAIN (AP) — Iraqi jet fighters have raided two Iranian-chartered supertankers off the key Kharg Island oil terminal in the Gulf waters, turning one of them into a ball of fire, Gulf-based shipping and salvage executives reported Friday.

The vessels, the Panamanian-registered 300,070-tonne *Magnum* and the Liberian-registered 259,617-tonne *Mistra*, were stricken on Thursday, when Iraq sent its jet fighters in three consecutive raids on Kharg, these executives said.

The Iraqis were apparently retaliating for Iranian artillery shelling of a northern Iraqi residential area where Iraq said 74 civilians were killed and 140 wounded.

The Iraqi high command said 21 of the dead were children. It warned of "devastating measures" in retaliation.

"Wave after wave of low flying Iraqi jets bombed the Kharg facility on Thursday," said one of the shipping executives, who refused to be identified. "The *Mistra* was partially loaded at Kharg's eastside jetty at the time of the attack."

"The cargo is on fire, and the vessel and the surrounding waters are a ball of fire," he said. "The *Mistra* sustained two missile attacks and has been very badly damaged."

The crew abandoned the blazing vessel, after an unspecified number of them were injured, he said. The *Mistra* was awaiting salvage tugboats to deal with the flames, said the executive without elaborating.

The *Magnum* was further south from Kharg when the Iraqis struck. The executive said the attack ignited a small fire that the crew managed to extinguish.

An Iraqi military spokesman in Baghdad announced that Kharg was attacked Thursday mid-morning, and later around noon and in mid-afternoon and that one of Kharg's two loading jetties, the eastern jetty was "devastated." He said other "extremely important" unspecified targets on the terminal were struck and left in flames.

Other formations of Iraqi jet fighters carried out synchronized air raids against an oil refinery and power centers deep inside Iran, the spokesman said.

The *Magnum* and *Mistra* are part of an Iranian-commissioned fleet of tankers used to ferry crude oil from Kharg to a safer makeshift terminal at Sirr Island, 560 kilometres southward.

Iran often retaliates for Iraqi attacks on tankers sailing to and from Kharg by raiding commercial vessels in the southern neutral sector of the Gulf waters.

Last week, Iranian warplanes rocketed an American-owned Liberian-registered petroleum products carrier, the 76,297-tonne *Mercedes* in the so-called tanker war. They also attacked a Saudi Arabian-bound

tanker, the 274,629-tonne *Ethnic*, and rocketed but missed the Greek tanker *Konkardim*, Gulf shipping executives said.

The London-based Lloyds shipping intelligence unit has meanwhile reported that it was later ascertained that one of the rockets caused a one-foot hole in a wing side tank of the *Konkardim*.

By Lloyds's count, Iraq and Iran have attacked a total of 51 ships this year, more than the total of the whole of 1979.

The publican Lloyd's List has estimated about 200 neutral ships attacked since the start of the Iran-Iraq war, with about 50 seamen killed in these attacks. It said 23 of the 50 seamen were killed this year.

Reuter adds: Iraq has mauled Iran's shuttle tanker fleet in the past month, knocking out about half of the vessels ferrying export oil to the southern gulf, shipping sources in the region said Friday.

Apart from the two vessels hit on Thursday three other tankers from Iran's estimated 11-strong shuttle fleet were hit in the past month.

Iran, however, should be able to bring five more vessels — including battle-scarred veterans of the so-called tanker war — into the fleet within a month, the sources said.

Most shuttle vessels carry crude oil to terminals in the southern gulf outside the effective range of Iraqi jets. Some of them are used to bring oil products into Iran, which does not have enough refining capacity to supply all domestic needs.

Hostage's family sends birthday message

BEIRUT (R) — The family of a Frenchman held hostage by militants in Lebanon has issued a birthday message expressing hope for his early release, a local newspaper reported Friday.

The independent *An Nahar* newspaper published the message from the wife and children of journalist Jean-Paul Kauffmann, who turned 42 on Thursday after 15 months in captivity.

"Jel, Gregoire, Alexandre and friends of Jean-Paul Kauffmann wish Jean-Paul on his birthday, that he regain his freedom soon," the message said.

"A total of 18 foreigners are missing, believed kidnapped, in Lebanon. They included eight French nationals, five Americans, two Britons, an Irishman, an Italian and a South Korean."

The secretive "Islamic Jihad" (holy war) group has said it "executed" French Arabist researcher Michel Seurat and American diplomat William Buckley. But their bodies have not been found.

The kidnappers of Briton Alec Collett, seized in March last year, announced last April they had hanged the 64-year-old journalist, who was on assignment for a United Nations agency.

The release 10 days ago of U.S. Roman Catholic priest Lawrence Jenco, after 18 months in captivity, has raised hopes for the release of his fellow hostages.

Lebanese Interior Minister Abdullah Rassi said Thursday the kidnappers of American and French hostages have been shifting their captives between secret prisons in Lebanon.

He also said in an hour-long interview with the Associated Press that Syrian President Hafez Al Assad's government was determined to "help free all of them."

"When I took over, we had word where the hostages were. But now we don't," said Rassi, who assumed his key government post two weeks ago.

Israelis say Mubarak gave assurances of normal relations

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak has reaffirmed his intention to improve relations with Israel, including a return of his withdrawn ambassador, after the signing of an agreement on arbitration of a border dispute, Israeli sources said Friday.

Mr. Mubarak gave the assurance at a meeting on Friday with co-leaders of the Israeli delegation to current negotiations on the disputed border area of Taba, a nine-square-kilometre Red Sea beach resort claimed by the two countries, according to delegation sources who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The informants said the meeting, held in the Mediterranean city of Alexandria, was at Mr. Mubarak's initiative.

It was the first time the president conferred with Israel's Taba delegation since negotiations began after Israel last January accepted Egypt's demand for international arbitration of the dispute.

Attending were David Kimche, director of the foreign ministry, and Avraham Tamir, director general of Prime Minister Shimon Peres' office. Other participants were Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid and Israel's Cairo ambassador, Mr. Moshe Sasson.

The sources said Mr. Mubarak told the Israeli team he had every intention of honouring his

promise to return his ambassador to Israel after the Taba arbitration deed is signed. He also said that he, then, would be ready to have a summit with Mr. Peres.

Mr. Mubarak stated this position publicly in the past, but the Israeli team found his renewed assurances gratifying at this point, the sources said.

Mr. Mubarak withdrew the ambassador in September 1982 in protest against Israel's invasion of Lebanon three months earlier.

The latest round in the Taba negotiations opened here on Tuesday. Israeli and Egyptian delegates said on Thursday "a lot of progress" had been made but disagreement continued on some points.

The Israeli sources said Mr. Mubarak's talks with Mr. Kimche and Mr. Tamir were "broad in scope," dealing with the whole range of bilateral relations without focussing on remaining differences in the Taba negotiations.

U.S. Vice-President George Bush, winding up a 10-day tour of Israel, Jordan and Egypt, told reporters in Cairo on Tuesday that the Israelis and Egyptians were "very close" to agreement on arbitration. Mr. Bush left behind Richard Murphy, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, to assist in the negotiations.

Cyprus rejects report of guerrilla's escape by air

NICOSIA (AP) — The government on Friday described as "completely untrue" a newspaper claim that six guerrillas who attacked the British airbase of Akrotiri were smuggled out of Cyprus aboard a Libyan airliner crewmen.

Government spokesman Petros Voskarides issued a four-page statement detailing the conclusions of a police investigation into the claim by the opposition daily *Alithia* the previous day.

This followed a preliminary denial on Thursday by Voskarides, who promised a "detailed report within 24 hours" on the *Alithia*

report. The escape claim "is completely untrue and is based on unchecked information. Such press reports serve no purpose and cause immense harm to Cyprus," Voskarides' second statement concluded.

The Sunday attack on the Akrotiri air base was claimed by a pro-Libyan group calling itself the United Nasserite Organisation.

A statement by the group said the attack with heavy mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and automatic fire was in retaliation for British involvement in the April 15 U.S. air raids against the Libyan cities of Tripoli and Benghazi.

Israel begins deporting Black Hebrews

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel has begun deporting members of the U.S.-based Black Hebrew sect, a police spokesman said Friday.

The supreme court ruled last week that 46 members have been living in the country illegally, and upheld an earlier decision to deport them.

Immediately after the court ruling, interior ministry spokesman Yitzhak Agassi said the expulsions could begin immediately. But he has repeatedly declined to release information on when they would occur.

Agassi said many more Black Hebrew members were living in the country illegally and their deportations also could be ordered.

Kobi Bachar, chief spokesman

for Israel's central police office, told the Associated Press some deportations had begun. He said those deported were not among the group of 46 "but individuals who were ordered deported some time ago." He declined to elaborate.

Israel delayed action against sect members for years, fearing repercussions from black African nations and from black Americans. Four U.S. Democrat congressmen accused Israel in April of discrimination against the group.

U.S. embassy officials in Tel Aviv met Friday to discuss the Black Hebrew issue, but did not immediately release a statement.

The Black Hebrews, led by a former Chicago bus driver who now calls himself Ben-Ami Carter, "the Prince of Peace," claim they are descended from the biblical children of Israel.

The supreme court ruled in 1972 they are not Jewish and therefore are not entitled to automatic Israeli citizenship under "the law of return" which allows all Jews to hold Israeli citizenship.

Israel has deported between 30 to 40 members of the sect since 1984 for living here illegally, and has denied entry to other groups arriving in Israel.

The Black Hebrews have also come under fire in the United States. In Washington, nine members were convicted last month of a multi-million dollar fraud.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mahdi visits Libya

CAIRO (AP) — Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq al Mahdi flew to Libya on Friday for a two-day visit, Egypt's Middle East News Agency reported from Khartoum. The state-owned agency quoted Mr. Mahdi as saying before leaving that he would discuss with Libyan leaders details of a plan to purchase Libyan oil for Sudan against payment from savings of Sudanese expatriate workers in Libya. Mr. Mahdi said the Libyan government had approved the plan. The visit to Libya was Mr. Mahdi's second trip abroad since he took office after his Al Umma Party won the largest number of parliamentary seats in national elections last April. Mr. Mahdi attended last month's African summit conference in Ethiopia. He is scheduled to go to Moscow on Monday for an official visit.

Turks stage protest in Greece

ATHENS (R) — Police arrested 17 Turks after they seized the Turkish airlines office in central Athens on Thursday, police sources said. The Turks, who held the office for 30 minutes before being taken to police headquarters, were protesting against a Turkish government decision to execute nine members of the Turkish Communist Party on Aug. 1, the sources said. None of the employees working for the airlines was hurt and no damage was reported.

Greece holds 3 W. Germans

LARISSA, Greece (AP) — Three young West Germans were arrested on espionage charges earlier this week for photographing Greek warplanes at airports around the country, court officials in this central Greek city said Thursday. They were identified as Herbert Dederichs, 25, a private sector employee, Martin Schott, 24, a salesman, and Wolf-Udo Wipflinghoff, 23, a student, all of Neuss, West Germany. The three men were arrested Monday while shooting pictures of airplanes taking off and landing at a Greek air force base near Larissa. The West Germans reportedly told police they were photographing the airplanes as a "hobby."

Vanuatu denies cooperation with Libya

SUVA, Fiji (AP) — Prime Minister Walter Lini of Vanuatu on Thursday denied that his government was working with Libya to support the independence movement in the French Pacific territory of New Caledonia. "The Libyans and the French have their own differences," he said. Mr. Lini, one of the most controversial leaders of the newly emerging island nations in the South Pacific, caused a stir two months ago when he announced his government's recognition of Libya. A month later he recognised the Soviet Union, but also has offered to open relations with the United States. Speaking at a news conference in Suva, the Fijian capital, on the eve of the 13-nation South Pacific forum, Lini said his recognition of Libya was no different than recognition of other countries. "We think we can learn a lot of things from the Libyans," he said.

Israel reports Golan exercises

TEL AVIV (AP) — Large-scale military manoeuvres, which included ground and air forces, took place on the Golan Heights opposite Syria this week, the military spokesman announced Thursday. Meanwhile the army also began investigating a rare complaint against some 10 soldiers accused of abandoning a position in the north last month. Israel occupied the strategic plateau in the 1967 Middle East war and annexed it in 1981. Military sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that some of the troops failed to reach the base and others apparently left before being replaced. Israeli newspapers reported the story as a protest by the soldiers against ration cuts. But initial inquiries have determined that "the problem has nothing to do with food," the source said and refused to elaborate.

Assad, Gandhi exchange messages

DAMASCUS (AP) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad received a letter Thursday from Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi dealing with the forthcoming non-aligned summit in Harare, Zimbabwe, Syria's official news agency (SANA) reported. The agency said the letter was delivered by A.P. Venkateswaran, secretary of India's External Affairs Ministry. Mr. Assad handed him a reply to Mr. Gandhi's letter, SANA said. Mr. Venkateswaran arrived in Damascus Wednesday and conferred with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara'a. Before meeting with Mr. Assad, he held talks with Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam. The Indian official is on a tour of Middle East countries.

Peres claims Syria making chemical warheads

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres claimed on Thursday Syria was developing poison gas warheads for Soviet-supplied missiles which experts say could hit cities in northern Israel.

"It is spending large sums to acquire surface-to-surface missiles and to develop chemical warheads, as if these weapons could decide the outcome of a war," Mr. Peres said in a speech.

The London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies says Syria already has SS-21 missiles.

Israeli experts have predicted the missiles would be used against northern cities and army reservists' call-up centres during a surprise Syrian attack aimed at recovering the Golan Heights.

The Israeli army said on Wednesday that training for possible future chemical warfare has been "a marked priority" in some of its recent large-scale manoeuvres.

Arab League said to be in worst financial crisis

TUNIS (R) — The Arab League is facing the worst financial crisis in its 41-year history because member states suffering from lower oil incomes are holding back their contributions, according to Arab diplomatic sources here.

The 21-member Tunis-based league, which has an annual budget of around \$30 million, has warned member states that a total freeze on all projects might have to be imposed at the end of the month.

More than half the league's members are not up to date with their annual payments and some are four years in arrears, the sources said.

"It's the worst financial crisis which has hit the Arab League since its foundation," said one diplomat, who asked not to be named.

Arab League Secretary General Chadi Klibi received all permanent representatives to the group last week and informed them that drastic cutbacks will be necessary if payments are not forthcoming, the sources added.

Payments are made on a quota basis, depending on national

income and population. Countries such as Saudi Arabia make the biggest contributions to the league.

The league's financial crisis follows a dramatic fall in the price of oil, which has caused member states with their mostly oil-dependent economies to slash their national budgets.

However, the 13-member Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) agreed this week to cut oil output for two months in a move aimed at driving up prices.

The diplomatic sources said that salaries of Arab League staff and the upkeep of headquarters here and offices elsewhere accounted for about 50 per cent of the budget.

But it would be the league's projects, development programmes, activities of its myriad agencies and planned symposia which would be first in the firing line for cuts, the sources said.

Officials refused to name which states were behind on their payments, but said they numbered about a dozen.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	Koran
17:00	Cartoons
17:30	Scientific programme
18:15	Kids of Degraat
18:40	Zoo 2000
19:05	Agriculture programme (local)
19:30	Programme review
19:45	News programme on Iraq
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:30	Facts and Events
22:30	Tomorrow's programme
22:35	Arabic film
23:00	News summary in Arabic
23:30	Film contd.
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:50	La vallee des peupliers
19:00	News in French
19:15	Adjourndu en France
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Science World
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	That's My Boy
21:10	Louise
22:00	News in English
22:20	Jordan Weekly
22:30	Feature film: Cross Creek Peter Coyote and Dana Hill
RADIO JORDAN 855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM at party on 9560 KHz, SW Tel: 774111-19	
07:00	Light Music
07:30	News Desk
08:00	Morning Show
08:30	News Summary
09:00	Morning Show Continued
11:00	Orchestral Food
11:15	Your Health
11:30	Men from the Ministry
12:00	News Summary
12:30	Pop Session
13:00	News Summary
13:30	Pop Session contd.
14:00	News Bulletin
14:15	Jordan Weekly
16:00	Concert Hour
16:30	News Summary
16:45	News Desk
17:00	Instrumental Old Favorites
17:30	Special Feature
17:50	Music
18:00	News Summary
18:30	Top Twenty
19:00	News Desk
19:30	Dance with a Star
20:00	Songs from Movies
20:30	Yes Minister
21:00	News Summary
21:30	In Concert

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS	
EXHIBITIONS	
* The University of Sydney's photographic exhibition of the Aquaba-Ma archaeological survey at the University of Jordan's Archaeology Museum.	
* An exhibition entitled "The Statute of Liberty" at the French Cultural Centre (until August 21).	
* An art exhibition by Marwan Shamsi at the Housing Bank Centre Gallery.	
CULTURAL CENTRES	
Royal Cultural Centre, Tel. 6610267	American Centre, 644371
American Centre, 644371	British Council, 641520
British Council, 641520	French Cultural Centre, 637009
French Cultural Centre, 637009	Goethe Institute, 641993
Goethe Institute, 641993	Soviet Cultural Centre, 644203
Soviet Cultural Centre, 644203	Spanish Cultural Centre, 624049
Spanish Cultural Centre, 624049	Turkish Cultural Centre, 639777
Turkish Cultural Centre, 639777	Haya Arts Centre, 665195
Haya Arts Centre, 665195	Husseini Youth City, 6671806
Husseini Youth City, 6671806	Y.W.C.A., 641793
Y.W.C.A., 641793	Amman Municipal Library, 637111
Amman Municipal Library, 637111	University of Jordan, 843555
MUSEUMS	
Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.	
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabel Al Qai's (Cistad Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.	
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabel Luweibdeh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128.	
Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9	
am-4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.	
Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 637169.	
SERVICE CLUBS	
Lions Amman Club: Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.	
Lions Palestine Club: Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m.	
Philadelphian Rotary Club: Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.	
Rotary Club: Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel, 2:00 p.m.	
Royal Automobile Club, Jabel Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 815261, 815410.	
CHURCHES	
St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Amman, Tel. 624590.	
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabel Luweibdeh, Tel. 637440.	
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Huseini, Tel. 661757.	
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Jabel, Tel. 633541.	
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabel Amman, Tel. 678906.	
Assumption Catholic Church, Ashrafieh, Tel. 775261.	
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, Tel. 771751.	
Amman International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shamsi, Tel. 811255.	
Evangelical Lutheran Church, Jabel Amman, 6th Circle, (Rev. N. Smir), Tel. 811255.	
Baptist Congregation (International, Inter-denominational) meets in the Church of the Redeemer, Jabel Amman, Tel. 606974.	
PRAYER TIMES	
04:25	Fajr
05:56	(Sunrise) Duha
12:42	Zuhur
16:22	'Asr
19:26	Maghreb
20:59	Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by the Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport, tel. (08) 33200-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
08:25	Belgrade (JU)
08:50	Sana'a (RJ)
07:15	London, Luton (BA)
09:15	Amman (RJ)
10:30	Kuwait (RJ)
10:30	Karachi, Bahrain (RJ)
10:45	Cairo (RJ)
10:50	Doha (RJ)
10:55	Dhahran (RJ)
11:00	Riyadh (RJ)
11:15	Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
11:30	Abu Dhabi (RJ)
13:40	Bahrain (GF)
14:05	Cairo (MS)
14:15	Kuwait (RJ)
17:30	Baghdad (IA)
18:30	New York, Vienna (RJ)
18:30	Paris, Damascus (AF)
18:45	Moscow (RJ)
19:05	Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
19:25	Beirut (MEA)
19:30	Cairo (RJ)
19:30	Amsterdam, Damascus (KLM)
19:35	Istanbul (RJ)
20:10	Rome, Damascus (AZ)
09:15	Frankfurt, Damascus (LH)
09:30	Baghdad (RJ)
09:30	Kuwait (RJ)

'Eid to start Aug. 15, Mheilan announces

AMMAN (J.T.) — 'Eid Al Adha (Feast of the Sacrifice), which follows the annual pilgrimage to Mecca, will be celebrated in Jordan on Friday Aug. 15, according to an official statement issued by Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Mohammad Mheilan.

In his statement, Sheikh Mheilan wished the Jordanian people and the Arab and Islamic nations continued progress and prosperity, and voiced hope that the usurped Arab lands would be liberated and returned to their lawful owners.

The announcement comes as the Muslim pilgrims are continuing their religious rites around Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia. Among the worshippers there are more than 12,000 Jordanian pilgrims.

Minister of Awaqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat is in Saudi Arabia to supervise the work of Jordanian missions accompanying pilgrims to the holy places. Sheikh Khayyat

will also deliver greetings from His Majesty King Hussein to King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia and will meet with the Emir of Mecca to discuss subjects related to Jordanian pilgrims and facilities offered them by the Saudi Arabian authorities.

The ministry's under-secretary, Dr. Abdul Salam Al Abbadi, who is heading a working mission accompanying Jordanian pilgrims in Saudi Arabia, said that all Jordanian pilgrims have arrived in Mecca safely and that they are staying in rented accommodation. He added that the six deaths which occurred last week among Jordanian pilgrims were due to natural causes.

Dr. Abbadi went on to say that he and concerned Saudi officials have agreed on arrangements related to pilgrims' transport inside the holy cities. He also paid tribute to the cooperation of Saudi officials and praised the services offered to pilgrims by Saudi Arabia.

Crown Prince chairs meetings on five-year development plan

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan chaired a meeting at the Ministry of Planning on Thursday to discuss preparations for holding a conference on Jordanian development in Amman early in November.

Prince Hassan told the meeting that attention should be directed towards enabling the conference to find means of supporting current economic development programmes in the Kingdom. The forthcoming conference should also focus attention on inter-Arab economic integration, cooperation between Jordan and the European Economic Community and with

industrialised nations. Prince Hassan said.

Attending the meeting was Minister of Planning Taher Kana'an, Ministry of Planning secretary general Ziad Fariz and other senior officials.

Later, Prince Hassan chaired a second meeting at the ministry to discuss the development plans put forward by various governorates and districts. He said that special attention should be given to implementing regional plans and that development councils in various governorates should be provided with expertise, facilities and planning units capable of following the implementation of different schemes. Also, areas

lying around the sites of development projects should be helped to develop and all inhabitants should benefit from them, Prince Hassan said.

A lengthy discussion followed the meeting and concerned officials presented their views on the implementation of development plans in different governorates.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Kana'an, provincial governors, head of development councils in the provinces, Secretary General of the Royal Court Bassam Al Saket and economic advisor to the prime minister, Dr. Fayed Tarawneh.

Finance minister outlines benefits of government's new monetary policies

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Department of Lands and Survey will today start paying its dues to people whose lands have been taken over for public use and the Jordan Phosphates Mines Company (JPMC) will as of Tuesday pay compensation to the shareholders of the Jordan Fertiliser Industry Company which was bought by JPMC last month.

This was announced by Minister of Finance Hanna Odeh who, together with Central Bank Governor Hussein Al Qasem and his deputy Maher Shukri, spoke about Jordan's financial and monetary policies during a television programme on Thursday evening.

Dr. Odeh explained the objectives of these policies which were recently endorsed by the government and said they were designed to stimulate the national economy and to boost the role of

the private sector in the country.

These government measures aim at reducing the tax burden, providing protection to national products, creating a convenient atmosphere for investments and encouraging exports, Dr. Odeh explained.

One of the most important government decisions to bolster social development was that which permits the Housing Corporation to offer easier terms on loans to individuals with low incomes to enable them to build their own homes, Dr. Odeh added.

The minister expressed hope that the concerned authorities will soon start announcing construction projects, particularly those for building schools, health centres, housing units and government offices. He said that the government's recent measures concerning monetary policies are designed to make Jordan an

important financial centre in the Middle East and to create an opportune climate for investments, attracting capital from Arab and foreign countries.

Mr. Qasem and Dr. Shukri explained the government's decision to transform financial institutions into commercial investment banks. They said that investment banks will have a greater calibre and enjoy wider powers than financial institutions; and that they will be able to open accounts, finance projects and offer medium and long term loans required for the current development plan. These measures, they said, are also aimed at attracting foreign capital to Jordan, especially capital owned by Jordanians who are now allowed to keep deposits of up to JD 100,000 in foreign currency, up from JD 30,000.

Central Bank explains new monetary moves

(Continued from page 1)

for depositors." He said he expected lower interest rates "to encourage people to invest their money in different businesses."

On mergers of banking institutions, Dr. Fanek expressed doubt that there will be major mergers of banks. "However," he said, "we have to wait and see... it is good to try."

He described as "out of the question" the possibility of a devaluation of the dinar. "If there was such a decision, this would have been the best time to do it... However, with the introduction of this programme, it means the idea has been ruled out."

Following are excerpts from the memorandum which the cabinet studied before issuing Thursday's statement.

The present economic recession and the emergence of unemployment call for further government spending and an alleviation of tax burdens, and the government has taken steps in this direction and reduced income tax on revenues from renting homes and cut water and electricity rates.

The following proposals are deemed necessary for the government to implement, and to spend JD 125 million over the coming two years on a programme to be called a government investment programme in the Kingdom. This programme should include the following:

(1) Spending JD 25 million on paying for land bought from the public to enable the public to employ the money in investment projects.

This calls for paying JD 10.4 million for land bought from the public, paying the Post Office Savings Fund JD 6.2 million by buying the fund's shares in various companies to compensate the fund for its losses and paying JD 8.4 million in compensation to small shareholders of the Jordan Fertiliser Industry Company which was bought — after it made heavy losses — by the Jordan Phosphates Mines Company.

(2) Embarking on a JD 100 million investment programme to be spent on building schools, health centres and government buildings in provinces and housing — by

establishing a special fund or programme to take care of individual loans, limited to JD 7,000 per case, to private citizens with limited income and who do not own their homes.

The allocations are for carrying out housing projects through the Housing Corporation, specially for people with limited income, provided a housing unit is not less than 80 square metres in area and no more than 120 square metres.

Out of these allocations JD 8 million will be spent for helping money-lending agencies, with JD 3 million going to the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) and JD 2 million allotted to the Cities and Villages Development Bank.

In implementing this programme, the following policies should be followed:

All materials used in these projects should be raised locally. — Housing units should be of uniform type at the minimum cost. — Housing units should be of a should be fairly distributed around the country. — Tenders for constructing the units should be offered to local contractors with each contract not exceeding JD 1 million in value.

The memorandum pointed out that to make Jordan a significant financial centre in the region efforts should be made to attract foreign capital and this can be done by undertaking the following measures:

— Transforming all financial firms operating in Jordan into investment banks capable of issuing loans. — Confining moneychangers work to exchanging foreign currency, and prohibiting them from entering into any monetary speculation.

— Helping moneychangers and others involved in the financial sector to merge to boost their potential and capabilities according to the following principles:

(1) If two money moneychangers came up with JD 4 million they obtain a licence and become an investment bank provided they increase their capital to JD 6 million in two years from the merger date.

(2) If two investment banks

Hamzeh: Arab ministers' council plans to establish hospital in Jerusalem

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Health Ministers Council plans to establish an Arab hospital in occupied Jerusalem and the council will support the hospital both financially and technically to enable it to offer health services to Arab inhabitants under Israeli rule, Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh announced Thursday.

He said that the projected hospital will replace the Hospice Hospital which was closed down by the Israeli authorities last year.

Speaking in an interview with the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, Dr. Hamzeh said that a special committee has been formed to follow up on issues related to the health situation in the occupied territories and he added that this committee is working in cooperation with charitable and voluntary societies in the occupied lands. The committee, he said, is now gathering information and

conducting studies which will be submitted to the Arab Health Ministers Council's meeting for assessment with the purpose of meeting the needs of Palestinians living under Israeli rule. The Health Ministry in Jordan is concerned with raising the standard of health services in the occupied Arab territories and will do all it can to help meet Arab requirements in this respect, Dr. Hamzeh continued.

In the interview, Dr. Hamzeh reiterated that Jordan is free of cholera and that his ministry was taking all the necessary precautionary measures to prevent an outbreak of the disease in Jordan.

The health situation in the occupied territories was one of the topics concerning the Palestinian people which was discussed here Thursday by Under Secretary of the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs Ahmad



Zaid Hamzeh

Qatanaani and parliament member Edward Khamis, who represents the Bethlehem constituency. They discussed the needs and requirements of the Palestinian people and development projects in the occupied Arab territories.

Lower House endorses amendments to three temporary laws on education

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament Thursday endorsed amendments to three temporary laws on education which organise the role of the education council and outline preparations to be taken by the Ministry of Education for the general certificate of secondary examinations (tawjihi).

The House approved an amendment to Article No. 56 of the 1976 education law which entrusted the education council — chaired by the minister of education — with setting standards for and reviewing and amending all school books, texts and curricula as well as setting standards for the tawjihi examination.

The amendment failed to mention preparations to be taken by the ministry for holding the secondary stage admission test, which was enforced by a cabinet decision two years ago. The text aims at channelling preparatory stage students into secondary specialisation in accordance with their pass grade in the admission test.

The cabinet decision drew mixed reactions from supporters and opponents before it was enacted. Supporters claimed that such a test was needed to organise the manpower market in relation to students' academic capabilities while opponents contended that the test was no measure of student's academic excellence and that education specialisations should be selected by the students themselves and not through a test.

Thursday's 30-minute session



The Lower House of Parliament in session on Thursday

was not attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdul Wahab Al Majali who is reportedly on vacation in Vienna and Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Sami Judeh deputised for Mr. Majali.

The newly-elected Irbid deputy Jamal Obeidat questioned the preparations taken by the ministry to prepare for the admission test. The legal committee rapporteur Abdul Baqqi Gammo told Mr. Obeidat that the point he raised was not included in the 1976 law on education. Mr. Judeh explained that the examination was enacted in accordance with a government order and that "it aims at organising student flow into secondary stages" and not at issuing pass certificates.

He further said that the admission test will be discussed in details by the House when a decision on the subject is presented to Parliament. According to other amendments made to the 1976

law, the education council may advise the minister on issues related to education policy in the Kingdom and means of linking it to the needs of development plans as well as on ways of upgrading the standard of education. The council is also responsible for approving the ministry's fiscal budget, recommending any amendments to education laws and organising and evaluating the ministry's development plans which are financed by local, regional and international loans.

A ratification to Article 57 in the education law also empowered the minister with issuing orders to set tawjihi fees and the allocations to be given to the supervisors of examination sessions.

Amendments to the 1981 and 1982 education laws organised tests taken by ministry-run community colleges and the role of the Ministry of Health in offering medical services, inspection and treatment to public school students.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Prince Hassan visits army HQ

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Thursday called at the Army Headquarters where he met with Armed Forces Commander in Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and a number of his senior aides. The meeting was attended by the commander of the Royal Jordanian Air Force.

Eleven die in week's road accidents

AMMAN (Petra) — Eleven people were killed and 185 others were injured in 253 road accidents which occurred in Jordan between July 29 and August 4, according to a statistical bulletin issued by the Public Security Department (PSD). The bulletin said that most of the accidents occurred in the Amman Governorate and that the majority were collisions between cars.

Canary Islands governor tours Aqaba

AQABA (Petra) — Visiting Governor of the Spanish Canary Islands Jeronimo Safedra Thursday paid a visit to the Ports Corporation in Aqaba where he was briefed on the development and installations of the port. The corporation's deputy director general presented the corporation's shield to Mr. Safedra. On Wednesday, Mr. Safedra and the accompanying delegation paid a visit to the city of Petra.

CAA to attend Arab aviation meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) will be taking part in an Arab conference on civil aviation which will be held in Rabat, Morocco, on Oct. 7. The four-day conference will discuss working papers concerned with bolstering cooperation among Arab countries in civil aviation fields.



Delegations of Arab children taking part in the sixth Arab children's conference hold a meeting at the Royal Cultural Centre on Thursday (Petra photo)

Arab children hold concert with their Jordanian friends

AMMAN (J.T.) — Children participating in the Arab children's conference Friday staged a concert evening at the Haya Arts Centre.

The evening, in which 56 Arab children together with their 19 Jordanian colleagues sang national songs and anthems, was attended by ambassadors of the Arab countries which are participating in the week-long programme.

The concert was also attended by several Jordanian families which had received the visiting children earlier in the day. Each family with children the same age as those participating in the conference, received two visiting children for lunch and took them on excursions.

On Thursday the Arab children's conference called on Arab countries to help children develop their culture and skills and they also urged the establishment of a pan-Arab children's league and encouraging visits by children to various Arab states. At a gathering held at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman, participating children urged Arab governments to increase the number of children's schools, to provide free education and free medical care to children, to open children's clubs and take steps to enable children from various Arab countries to make friends among one another.

The conference also called on Arab countries to give more care to family welfare and to enhance relations among Arab families

through an exchange of educational radio and television programmes of interest to children.

The conference, which was attended by 56 Arab children representing 14 Arab countries, voiced their appreciation to Her Majesty Queen Noor for sponsoring the annual conference and inviting children from all over the Arab World to take part in cultural and recreational activities in Jordan.

Children involved in the sixth conference and a programme of a summer activities in Jordan came from Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, North Yemen, Kuwait, Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Sudan, Syria, Lebanon, Qatar, Morocco, Iraq in addition to Jordan.

The gathering was attended by Mrs. In'am Al Mufri, the director general of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) which is organising the conference's activities, the director of the foundation's development projects and the conference's secretary general.

Later, the children were taken on a tour of the Jordan Valley region where they visited the unknown soldier's monument near the site of the Karameh battle at the town of Shuneh. The children laid a wreath at the monument in memory of the martyrs who fell in battle. The children heard a briefing on the battle by local army commander and later they visited the King Hussein Bridge and the Dead Sea resthouse.

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ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

Al Ra'i: Supporting kinsmen

A PRESS statement issued at the end of King Hussein's talks with President Mubarak in Alexandria stressed the importance for Arab support for their kinsmen in the occupied Arab lands. The two leaders had discussed means for bolstering the steadfastness of the Arab people under Israeli rule and stressed the need for convening an international conference for resolving the Palestine issue and establishing peace based on justice. The press statement appealed to the Arabs to support the Palestinians and also to extend help to the Iraqi people who are now confronting the Iranian aggression on the eastern flank of the Arab World. The statement voiced total support for the Iraqi four-point peace plan for an end to the Gulf war and urged Arab countries to honour their commitments and the Arab Defence Pact which requires all Arabs to come to the help of one another in the event of external aggression. Unless the Arab countries as a whole come to the aid of their Iraqi and Palestinian kinsmen no one can help them in any way once their countries are endangered. Unless the Arabs show solidarity now they are bound to lose all support even from their friends.

Sawt Al Shaab: Facing external threats

A PRESS statement issued at the end of King Hussein's visit to Egypt projected all issues of concern to the two leaders and to the Arab Nation at large. The King and President Mubarak discussed the danger inherent in the continuing Gulf war and Iran's threats to the Arab countries of the Gulf region. They voiced their absolute support for Iraq's call for an end to the conflict and the settlement of the war by peaceful negotiations. Both leaders are also concerned with the situation in the occupied Arab lands and therefore, they appealed to the Arabs to extend assistance to their kinsmen under Israeli rule to bolster their steadfastness and to enable them to resist Israel's illegal practices. They also reiterated their countries call for the convening of an international conference at which all parties can discuss means for establishing a comprehensive and lasting peace. This press statement has projected the two leaders' keenness on re-establishing solidarity among Arab countries and the desire to see joint Arab action in the face of the common dangers.

Al Dustour: Support for Iraq

JORDAN and Egypt have underlined their keenness on finding solutions for the Gulf conflict and the Palestinian question. Their joint press statement issued following the King's visit to Alexandria clearly indicates that the two leaders are aware of the threats to their peoples and are therefore determined to seek solutions that can ensure peace and stability in the whole Arab region. This statement and the Egyptian-Jordanian support for Iraq come in time to confront the Iranian threat directed against Iraq and the Gulf states. King Hussein's cable to the president at the end of the visit reaffirms Jordan's firm stand by Iraq in defence of the Arab homeland and reiterates the importance of Arab support for their brothers in the Gulf and under Israeli rule. The Egyptian-Jordanian statement reaffirmed profound belief in the need for convening an international conference for resolving the Palestine question and appealed to all Arabs to help their brothers' steadfastness in the face of the Israeli onslaught. The statement bolstered the Arab stand in the wake of a confusion created by the Israeli prime minister's visit to Morocco. The statement also re-created confidence in the future of Arab solidarity and in joint Arab action.

Thursday's

Al Ra'i: Jordan leads the way

KING Hussein's visit to Egypt and his talks with President Mubarak is an exercise of the joint responsibility undertaken by the leadership of Jordan and Egypt towards the Middle East questions and the Arab region. This exercise represents one of the essential requirements for building a unified Arab stand, for enabling the Arab Nation to confront the common enemy and the threats posed by Iran to the Gulf region. Jordan has been among the first Arab countries to warn against the Iranian danger and has been explicit and open in its support for Iraq and its people in the face of continued Iranian aggression. It has also been calling for pan-Arab support for the Iraqi people who are now involved in a war for the defence of the Arab homeland. Jordan's stand is represented in King Hussein's recent message of support to President Saddam Hussein for his call on Iran to end the war peacefully. And Egypt has been following Jordan's example in this respect. It has openly supported Iraq in the face of aggression and denounced all Iranian threats directed against the Arab countries in the Gulf region. The exchange of views between Amman and Cairo vis-a-vis this issue and Jordanian-Egyptian coordination forms the corner stone in the pan-Arab effort to confront the common threats.

Al Dustour: Another important step

KING Hussein's visit to Alexandria and his talks with President Mubarak of Egypt are part of the on-going consultations between the two countries for re-establishing solidarity among Arab states in the face of the difficulties the Arab Nation is passing through. The two leaders' talks focus on a number of urgent issues that concern the whole Arab Nation not only Egypt and Jordan, with most attention on the Gulf war and the Palestine question. The past weeks witnessed serious developments in this region and the King's visits to Arab capitals were designed to maintain the momentum of consultations and coordination vis-a-vis these events and these developments that concern the Arabs and their future. The on-going consultations form a bridge over which Arab leaders can reach one another and carry on their consultations on issues that concern their people. Therefore the Egyptian-Jordanian meeting is another important step in the long struggle and the difficult march leading to solidarity among Arab countries, and a strengthening of the nation's stands. The Iranian threats to the Gulf and the Palestine question in addition to bilateral relations are at the centre of the talks which we hope will take the Arabs one further step towards achieving their goals.

Pollard and The Armageddon Network

By Nabeel Abraham

LEARNING that an Israeli spy had been caught in Washington on November 21, a bewildered President Reagan turned to his secretary of state and asked, "Why are they doing this?" The president had a point, but to find a plausible answer among the maze of official explanations proved to be difficult.

Not surprisingly, the press by and large stuck to the official line churned out by the Israeli government. The Pollard caper was an "unauthorised deviation" from a "clear-cut" Israeli policy of not spying on the U.S. It was a "rogue" operation, run out of a secret "counter-terrorism unit," which has since been "discontinued" in keeping with Prime Minister Shimon Peres' official apology to the U.S.

Nothing stretched the bounds of credulity more than the Israeli explanation of the motive behind the spy operation. According to a preliminary high-level inquiry, the operation was aimed at finding out "if the U.S. was spying on Israel." This line was later dropped in favour of the more palatable, from the American standpoint, objective of gathering U.S. intelligence on "Arab armies and Soviet military hardware in use in the Arab World." Whatever Israel may have been up to, New York Times reporter Thomas Friedman assured his reader, it had not asked Pollard "to get any information related to American national security or weapons systems" (Nov. 29, 1985). This bit of pre-emptive journalism, repeated twice in the same article, is most revealing, as will become evident.

Amidst the various paeans to the Israeli intelligence agencies and their long history of close cooperation with and service to the U.S., American commentators overlooked the obvious: why was Israel using Pollard to steal what it could have had for the mere asking? Even more inexplicable, given the faded reputation of the Israeli intelligence services, is why Israel was stealing from the U.S. the very intelligence data it prides itself on providing to the Americans.

A careful review of the early press reports following the Nov. 21 arrest of Jonathan Pollard and his wife outside, Israel's Washington embassy raises even more questions. Initial news stories reported that Pollard, a civilian analyst in a naval intelligence unit, had given Israeli agents "secret code" data as well as "several reports on Chinese intelligence operations in the U.S." (NYT, Dec. 4). These eyebrow raising revelations did not prompt journalists to question the Israeli official line or to speculate that Israel might be trading in sensitive U.S. secrets with the People's Republic. The two countries are known to be engaged in clandestine military deals. Pollard's wife, incidentally, was initially denied bail in early December because prosecutors feared "she intended to make a presentation" of some classified material to the Chinese embassy. Inexplicably, these revelations were dropped from subsequent news reports, and do not appear in the prosecution's June court brief.

Early news reports had made explicit reference to the abrupt departure of Ilan Ravid, an aide to the Israeli science attaché in Washington, and his counterpart,

Yosef Yagur, the science attaché in the Israeli consulate general in New York. The two were described as Pollard's contacts in the U.S. Beyond a few sparse details, little has been said in the press about the role of these men in the espionage ring, or even about what they were doing in the U.S. One detail, however, sticks out, begging for more attention. An American military officer recalled Yagur functioned more like a procurement officer, who "had the exact numbers of sophisticated types of weapons that nobody was supposed to know existed" (NYT, Dec. 22, 1985).

Nothing stretched the bounds of credulity more than the Israeli explanation of the motive behind the spy operation.

Yagur and Ravid worked for a secret department of the Israeli defence ministry called the "liaison bureau for scientific affairs," known by its Hebrew acronym, *Lekem*. According to an Associated Press story, *Lekem* "reportedly was founded about 20 years ago to conduct industrial espionage and recently expanded to include military spying." (Arlin Max, Dec. 2, 1985). The unit was headed until recently by Rafael Eitan, a former Mossad chief of operations and the man most credited with running the "rogue" Pollard spy operation. Pulling all these loose ends together leads one to wonder whether the Pollard caper was a *Lekem* operation. If so, were the Israelis stealing highly sensitive military and industrial secrets, and maybe even political secrets, from their American benefactor, instead of some intelligence on Arab military capabilities as they now claim?

This possibility appears to have eluded President Reagan. Speaking before a June 12 press conference some seven months after the Pollard story broke, he said, "The only thing I know is that the Israeli government has assured us... that they have never had any programme of trying to get intelligence information from our country or doing spying on us." The president's "see no evil" attitude was largely mimicked by journalists.

Reagan could have turned, as several news reporters did to a little known work by Michael Saba, *The Armageddon Network*, for a considerably different perspective. Saba, a former executive director of the National Association of Arab Americans, tells an intriguing story. One March morning in 1978 he found himself in a Washington hotel coffee shop seated within earshot of several men, one of whom he recognised as Stephen Bryen, then a staffer on the powerful Senate foreign relations committee. Little did he realise that what he was overhearing on that fateful morning would lead him to a six-year long lesson on the strange workings of the fabled U.S.-Israeli special relationship. For much of the conversation, Bryen was busy coaching his interlocutors, who turned out to be high-level Israeli defence officials, on the fine points of influencing U.S. policy. Discussion shifted and Bryen was overheard saying, "I have the

Pentagon document on the bases which you are welcome to see." Suspicious that Bryen was passing classified documents to Israel, Saba contacted the U.S. justice department. After a preliminary investigation, the matter was dropped. Lesson number one: investigations of wrong-doing by Israel's many friends in the U.S. government are subject to abrupt and unexplained cut-offs.

Internal justice department documents obtained several years later by Saba revealed that government investigators had in fact called for a grand jury probe of Bryen, only to have their recommendations quashed by an assistant attorney-general. Lesson number two: middle-level officials may sincerely want to check Israeli excesses but are ultimately

thwarted by higher-level political appointees and elected politicians.

Not many years after his brush with the justice department, Bryen obtained a high-level security clearance from the Pentagon where he assumed a sensitive position overseeing U.S. exports of advanced technology. He was hired by his friend Richard Perle, himself an avowed Zionist. Lesson number three: displaying strong pro-Israel leanings will not hinder one's career in government.

The real value of Saba's work, however, lies in his discussion of Israel's huge military-industrial complex, which employs one-third of the country's manpower and accounts for a quarter of its exports outside of

diamonds. It is against this background that the Pollard puzzle begins to make sense. According to a U.S. GAO report cited by Saba, "almost every Israeli arms production effort includes a U.S. input." While Saba is concerned with arguing a possible Israeli conspiracy to gain exclusive access to U.S. technology with the assistance of such well-placed sympathisers as Bryen and Perle, a more plausible scenario would have Israel stealing U.S. advanced weapons technology directly from the U.S.

One Israeli commentator in a recent commentary on the Pollard affair (A. Fishman, *Al Hamishmar*, Dec. 20, 1985), has in fact acknowledged that Israel is engaging in the "theft" of weapons technology. Theft as

Israeli state policy also received credence in a secret 1979 CIA report cited by Saba. The report observes that "the Israelis devote a considerable portion of their covert operations to obtaining scientific and technical intelligence. This has included attempts to penetrate certain classified defence projects in the U.S. and other Western nations."

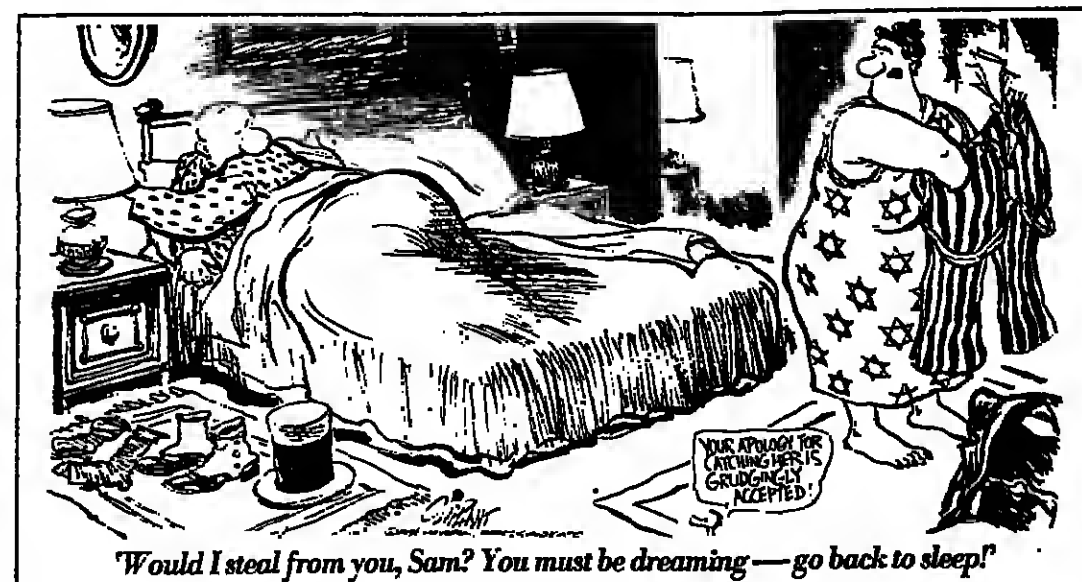
The Pollard operation should be viewed as an Israeli attempt to wriggle out from under its near total dependence on the U.S....

In another passage not cited by Saba, the CIA study indicates that Israeli intelligence agencies were also engaged in the "collection of information on secret U.S. policy or decisions, if any, concerning Israel," something to be expected from a country so heavily dependent on the U.S.

The *Armageddon Network* has more to tell us about the Pollard spy story, which ironically broke a year after it was published, than all the U.S. and Israeli official pronouncements combined. Where, in my opinion, Saba and some other critics of Israeli excesses miss the mark, is in viewing the U.S. largely as a victim of Israeli ingratitude and intrigue. The by now familiar anecdote — the USS Liberty, the Horag affair, the Apollo uranium theft, the Krypton caper, weapons sales to Iran, etc. — are strung together as historical proof of buttressing this line of reasoning.

The reality of the U.S.-Israeli special relationship is somewhat different. It is a two-way affair in which the U.S., through its generosity and indulgence, creates an Israeli dependency, a "vassal state" in Meacham Begin's terms, which is expected to do American bidding in the Middle East. In this context, the Pollard case acquires special meaning if we accept that it represents accumulated U.S. official resentment over "the degree to which Israel has been able to obtain sensitive information on United States secret weapons, policy deliberations and advanced technology" (B. Weinraub, NYT, June 5, 1986). In other words, the Pollard operation should be viewed as an Israeli attempt to wriggle out from under its near total dependence on the U.S. by building up its economy through arms exports.

In contrast, from the U.S. standpoint, the Pollard affair is a calculated attempt to preserve Israeli dependency. This fact probably explains why the case has dragged on so long, much to the chagrin of Israeli leaders and their American supporters. Along similar lines, the Reagan administration will in all likelihood use the affair to push through the Saudi AWACS sale, while at the same time blocking the Lavi fighter project. Already Secretary of Defence Casper Weinberger and other administration officials have predicted the demise of the Lavi; the message being that the U.S. will tolerate only those measures that foster greater Israeli dependency — lesson number four — Middle East International, London.



The branch must snap

The following article by Boaz Evron of the Israeli newspaper *Yediot Aharanot* is reprinted from *Middle East International*, London.

THE more I learn about the Pollard affair and the suspected theft of weapons technology, the more I wonder whether those responsible had taken leave of their senses. After all, we have one real friend in this world, on whom we depend in terms of our security, our economy, and our diplomatic and political strength. This friend keeps defending us and sparing us the consequences of all our follies and mistakes, while other countries have to pay for their follies and mistakes. That friend opened up his stores of weapons and knowledge to us, and generously finances even lunacies like the Lavi project. We would be lost without that friend.

I have no idea what "superior considerations" guided those who decided to try and grab more than was being offered to us, but whoever gave the order should have considered that such ploys often go wrong. They should also have thought hard about whether any information obtained by these means could be worth the immense political and propaganda damage their discovery would cause Israel. They should also have realised that despite the ability of our embassy, lobby, friends and supporters in the U.S. to cover up, whitewash, silence critics and calm troubled waters, such deeds will endanger a deepening sense of anger and bitterness among politicians, industrialists and ordinary people.

Resentment is growing, and it might one day find an outlet which will bring the house down over our heads. No short-term advantage was worth the risk of cutting off the very branch we are sitting on. It may be thick and strong, but it must snap one day.

It is easy to imagine what an ordinary, or even sophisticated, politicised and informed American must be thinking when faced with the daily exposures of our misdeeds in his country. These may be immediately denied by our official sources, but no one believes these denials. They would deny it, wouldn't they, think the Americans and then tell themselves: "Look at how much we are supporting them in any mess they get themselves into. We suffer from high unemployment, while they have almost none because of the money we give them. They have been given more money than all the rest of the world put together. We defend them in the U.N. against the just criticism levelled at them by all other countries for their treatment of the Palestinians. We bring in our military forces when there is any risk of the Russians troubling them, and they have the check to spy in our country. This farce is becoming intolerable. It must stop."

We would have reacted just like that. And we must not be misled by the fools who have recently tried to argue that what we were doing in America was nothing compared to the intelligence network they maintain in Israel. There is not symmetry here. We are living at their expense and not they at ours. We depend on their

good will and not vice versa. They also have the right to know whether some nutter here is trying to get them embroiled in a third world war. We cannot abandon the United States, but it can certainly abandon us. So, whatever the truth about their spying activities in Israel, we have no right to pay them back in the same coin.

It is interesting to note that to this day, no British, French, German or Dutch spy network has been discovered in the United States, although these countries are far less dependent upon the United States than we are. I suspect that the main reason for this fact is that these countries understand that it is unwise to offend the benefactor on whom one's livelihood and security depend.

I also have something to say to those of you who shrill: What do you mean, are we not an independent country? Why can't they behave in this way and we can't? The answer is: you are right. We are not an independent country. We are banned from behaving in such a way. We sold ourselves to the United States for good money, and keep trying to persuade it that we are a "strategic asset" permanently at its service. I have difficulty in recalling any other country so keen on being a tool in the hands of a foreign power.

In view of this, we must be told who was responsible for this act of gross irresponsibility, which one day might truly endanger our existence. It does not matter how high up that person is on the political ladder.

Peres, Shamir differ on conference

(Continued from page 1)

forum at the opening stages of peace talks if the Soviets resumed full diplomatic ties with Israel.

Delegates from the Soviet Union and Israel are to meet Aug. 18-19 in Helsinki, Finland, for the first formal talks between the countries since the Soviet Union severed diplomatic ties in 1967 to protest Israel's seizure of Arab lands in the Middle East war.

After setting the parameters of negotiations, the Soviet delegation plans to fly to Tel Aviv for talks both sides hope will lead to resumption of consular ties, according to Soviet spokesman Gennady Gerasimov.

The Soviet initiative is seen in Israel as a Soviet attempt to become involved in Middle East peace negotiations, when and if they take place. Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev, in a recent meeting with French President Francois Mitterrand, called for an international conference on the Middle East including Soviet participation.

Israel has consistently opposed Soviet participation in Middle East peace efforts until that country resumes full ties. But Mr. Shamir, speaking to Jewish students Thursday night, indicated that even if such relations are resumed, Israel would not agree to Soviet involvement in Middle East peace efforts.

"Israel will not agree to any attempt to impose solutions from the outside on the parties to the

conflict," Mr. Shamir said. "We cannot accept the proposal to hold an international conference — whether it is with or without the participation of the Soviet Union."

Mr. Peres, speaking hours earlier to a meeting of his Labour Party in Tel Aviv, criticised the lack of flexibility of some right-wing government members in peace efforts.

"I don't know who is entitled to decide that Israel did not agree to international accompaniment," Mr. Peres said. "The Knesset (parliament) approved it and the government approved it."

Mr. Shamir's opposition to an international conference could determine Israel's response to the Soviet Union after Mr. Shamir becomes prime minister in October in a power-sharing accord between Mr. Peres' Labour Party and Mr. Shamir's Likud bloc.

In Athens, Abu Iyad, a high-ranking member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), said on Thursday he was sure the Soviet Union would not sell out the PLO and Palestinians.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Charles Redman, talking to reporters, reiterated the long-standing U.S. call for a restoration of full diplomatic relations between Israel and the Soviet Union.

Hassan II reaffirms commitment

(Continued from page 1)

Morocco almost since King Hassan came to power in 1961. And since 1975, there have been periods of great tension between the two nations over the Western Sahara.

Algeria has served as a base for the Polisario guerrillas, who are fighting the Moroccan army for control of the area. Algeria has furnished the Polisario with supplies.

King Hassan criticised Syria's rupture of relations as "impulsive." He said Syria was dismayed because it hopes to be at the forefront of Middle East politics.

King Hassan also urged the Palestinians to have contacts with Israel in order to break the Middle East deadlock.

He said that if Arabs continued to refuse dialogue with Israel, the Palestinians would eventually lose their identity completely and become a danger to both the Arabs and Israel.

"If I were a Palestinian, I would have direct of indirect contacts with Israel" to ask it why an independent Palestinian state would be a danger for Israel, and what the Jewish state meant by Palestinian "autonomy," he said.

Following his talks with Mr. Peres two weeks ago, King Hassan called for an urgent Arab summit conference to relaunch the Fez peace plan.

He said that the "Committee of Seven" set up by the Fez summit should be reactivated under a new

chairman to promote the Fez plan. The king, who resigned 10 days ago as chairman of the Arab summit, chaired the committee of seven which conferred with the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council to explain the Fez plan.

He said the committee was unable to complete its mission because of objections from Syria and Algeria.

Answering criticism, the king said the situation in the Arab World was no worse now than it was before the meeting and here was a new opportunity to clarify the situation.

He said the whole Arab World had condemned the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat for making a deal with Israel, but that his initiative in meeting Mr. Peres had been tacitly approved by a large number of Arab states.

He added that there was no comparison between the two events because Mr. Sadat had negotiated the recovery of occupied territories while he had not entered into any negotiation with Mr. Peres.

With regard to the hostile reaction of Libya, with whom Morocco has been linked for two years by a state union treaty, he said Colonel Muammar Qadhafi had "his own views" on the issue and had not subscribed fully to the Fez plan.

He said the Libyan-Moroccan union was "still standing" and its institutions would meet soon.

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JTV Channel 2 Preview

Saturday, Aug. 9, 1986

8:30 That's My Boy

As a result of problems that take place during the moving of furniture, Chase arrives late to his new office.

9:10 Louisiana

Virginia's financial situation becomes very difficult. An old friend of her husband visits her. He asks her to marry him. She refuses and he plots against her.

10:20 Feature Film

Cross Creek
Starring: Peter Coyote
Dana Hill

Sunday, Aug. 10, 1986

8:30 Charlie and Company

9:10 Documentary
A Planet For The Taking
Myth Makers

Myth Makers

Masks, festivals, campfire stories and mathematical equations—they're all ways in which human beings express a sense of themselves and their place in the world.

Today we use science to express—and impose—our sense of mastery over the planet. In MYTH MAKERS, filmed on three continents, the foundations of science are uncovered—the attitudes and activities that underlie our ideas about human beings and human destiny.

10:20 Dallas

Monday, Aug. 11, 1986

8:30 Growing Pains

While Ben (Jeremy Miller) is selling his dreams to sister Carol (Tracey Gold) for a school research project, Mike (Kirk Cameron) breaks his promise to stay off a direct bike and winds up with a tender posterior that no spanking could accomplish.

9:10 Moonlighting

A lady visits the investigation office, seeking help for reconciliation with her husband. Unfortunately her husband is found murdered. David and Maddy start investigating to find the killer.

10:20 Crown Court

A middle-aged teacher assaults a policeman. The court looks into the case.

Tuesday, Aug. 12, 1986

8:30 Music Box

9:30 Alfred Hitchcock

10:20 The Master Hostages

A gang attacks the house of an American senator and takes his guests as hostages. The master and his companion try to rescue the hostages.

Wednesday, Aug. 13, 1986

8:30 Three's Company

Larry's Sister

When Larry's teenage sister, Diana, comes to visit, Larry asks Jack if he'll show her around, since Jack is the only guy Larry trusts.

9:10 Ripley's Believe It Or Not

The true story of the real Robinson Crusoe, the terrifying and deadly world of the spider, some strange celebrations... are some of the stories you are going to see in this episode.

10:20 Sword of Honour

Thursday, Aug. 14, 1986

8:30 Carol Burnett and Friends

9:10 Lime Street

One of the famous authors hides a sum of money in a book. He who finds this book takes all the money.

10:20 Feature Film

Frances
Starring: Jessica Lange
Sam Shepard

A true story of an actress and problems in her life that led to her death in 1970.

Friday, Aug. 15, 1986

8:30 Check It Out

Howard Bannister, a harassed supermarket manager who dreams of a better life beyond the checkout. He runs a tight shift, despite a tidal wave of employee inefficiency.

9:10 Finder of Lost Loves

10:20 Play of The Week
Anne and Debbi

Starring Deborah Kerr and Claire Bloom as two friends who meet in the lounge of London's Ritz Hotel to talk about Ian who has recently died.

India: The 'secret' famine

By Darryl D'Monte

Some 100 million people are facing drought and famine in India; unknown numbers have already died of hunger. News of this famine has been notably absent from the world's press and media, while in India itself government officials still deny its existence.

BOMBAY, India — Late last year in the eastern Indian state of Orissa, Panas Punji sold her 13-year-old sister-in-law Banita to a man in a nearby village for \$3.00. She had to buy food for her three starving children and she was desperate.

Such events are not uncommon in Kalahandi district, which has been suffering from drought for 20 years. But this time the media highlighted the incident and prompted a visit by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. The attention sent state government officials scurrying to make amends for their neglect of this tribal area.

India's Newswire programme, commercially sponsored on the government-controlled TV network, featured Panas Punji, Banita, and the man who bought her. The presenter asked the state Chief Minister for his reaction. He said that starvation was unknown in the district and the case was a concoction of the media. "Here are four versions of the story," the presenter told the viewers, "you make up your own mind which is true."

The impact of the programme on the nationwide network — till recently strictly censored by the government — was tremendous and forced the Chief Minister himself to take measures to relieve the distress of the people. But for every such case, there are literally millions which are going unnoticed in drought-stricken India today.

No fewer than 100 million people in nine states are reeling under the impact of the failure of last year's monsoons. In Orissa state, which has a high proportion of tribals, 500 people are believed to have perished in the last eight

months; 30 are reported to have died in Koraput district after the Prime Minister's visit. In Karnataka state, in southern India, the drought is the worst this century.

The cumulative effect of drought is that there is simply not enough to eat. In Koraput, tribals have been reduced to eating the putrefying meat of dead cows; fodder is almost unavailable and some of the cattle have perished from diseases like anthrax. When even this source of food is not available, the people grind the kernels of mango and tamarind seed, which are considered quite inedible, and make a powdery gruel to eat with coarse cereal. "Not a blade of grass grows in the wastelands here," reported a newsmagazine.

In many areas water — to drink, bathe and cook with — is scarce. While rural areas have faced such crises for generations, towns are now thirsty as well. Rajkot, in Gujarat state, is probably the most affected in the country. The entire city, with half a million people, is dug up. Streets resemble battlefield trenches as citizens excavate in order to tap every last drop from the pipelines running beneath the surface. Rajkot now gets water supplied by government tankers and the pipes receive water for only 20 minutes every second day.

Water has become big business in such Gujarat towns. Some families spend \$100 a month, about half their income, on procuring water from private carriers. Motorcycles have been pressed into service to ferry cans; milkmen find vending water more profitable than milk. City officials

fear that water riots may break out any moment.

A third problem is the impact on cattle, which are the security of countless millions of rural families. In just one district of Maharashtra, considered one of the more "prosperous" and industrialised states, 25,000 cattle perished in December 1985. Distress sales are common throughout the state. Near Solapur, cattle are sold for \$24, a tenth of their market value. Ironically, the Indian government was late last year planning to airlift some 20,000 milch cows which were surplus in EEC countries.

Perhaps it takes a catastrophe like the Bengal famine in 1943, when 3.5 million died, to arouse the Indian government to action. At present it is still contemplating exporting some of the mounting foodgrain stocks — a record 29 million tonnes — because storing it has become a problem. The state-owned Food Corporation is trying to sell 100,000 tonnes of wheat to South Korea as animal feed.

Although district officials in many areas are anxious to avert starvation deaths, they are faced with the indifference of their seniors and ruling politicians. Many of these officials have taken parties of newsmen around affected areas in the hope that the media will prod the government. Funds are very scarce: in 1983, states sought \$3.6 billion as drought relief, but received only \$453 million. This year, Maharashtra alone is asking for \$407 million. Karnataka is spending around \$755,000 a day on relief.

The central government may claim that it has not got funds of the magnitude necessary to tackle the crisis. But that should not prevent it from launching "food for work" programmes in drought-stricken areas so that people without food can work and be paid in part or full in grain from



Rajasthan, India: Some of the 100 million peasants for whom the rains have failed. (Photo by Sanjay Acharya — Earthscan)

the bulging storage facilities. Such programmes do exist on a small-scale in every state but are dogged by complaints that the beneficiaries are constantly cheated by corrupt overseers.

Maharashtra, which faced a severe drought between 1970 and 1973, started an Employment Guarantee Scheme. In theory the scheme guarantees any able-bodied man or woman in the state who seeks work a wage of up to \$1.00 a day in cash and grain. This unique scheme has helped many villagers eke out an existence in times of distress. Often, the work consists of breaking metal to make roads.

The scheme is successful in staving off hunger, but it could be directed towards creating permanent assets, like water reservoirs, which would relieve scarcity on a long-term basis. Often, roads built during the summer are washed away in the

monsoon.

Environmentalists are also asking why forestry isn't being included in the relief work, since deforestation makes drought much worse. Kalahandi itself used to be heavily forested and even between 1980 and 1985, yielded \$120 million as forest revenue to the state. The government spent less than \$1.5 million of afforestation during this period, most of it on the salaries of the Forest Department. Not surprisingly, many young men from Kalahandi have migrated to Calcutta and other towns to work as coolies and rickshaw pullers.

Unless the Indian government attends to both immediate problems and long-term solutions, the threat of drought can only grow more urgent. Its emphasis on encouraging the growth of high-yielding crop varieties ought to be re-examined since these require heavy irrigation and divert

supplies of badly-needed water.

A Bombay-based civil rights group has found that the area under sugarcane in Maharashtra has risen by 200 per cent in the last decade, even though the crop requires ten times as much water as the cereals consumed by the poor. The wells of prosperous cane-growers have over-exploited groundwater resources and caused the entire water table to recede.

Activists working in arid areas of these states are calling for a "national famine code" which will prescribe both emergency and long-term measures to deal with a scourge which is now casting its shadow over much of India with distressing regularity. As Maharashtra's Relief Commissioner, V. Ranganathan says, "In the 21st century, the shortage of oil will not be the major concern; instead it will be water" — Earthscan feature.

Peruvian desert designs tracked stars, not alien spacecraft

By Andrew Stern
Reuters

CHICAGO — The enigmatic Nazca line drawings in Peru, which various theories have said were roads, irrigation ditches or even landing strips for aliens, are now believed to have had astronomical significance.

But the leading expert on the designs — German mathematician Maria Reiche — and the astronomer who is taking over her research of the past 40 years say that the precise nature of the star calendar is still a mystery. "My working hypothesis is that the Nazca were astronomically oriented," said astronomer Phyllis Pituga of Chicago's Adler planetarium.

Pituga visited the desert south of Lima several years ago and met

Reiche, who is now 83 and has studied the monumental lines and animal figures in the Pampa since 1946.

Reiche, who is frail but still works at the site with the help of assistants, persuaded Pituga to join her three years ago so that her work would continue after her death.

The desert art "is the most imposing artefact left by the Nazca," Pituga told Reuters in a recent interview.

The Indians drew geometric lines and 30 giant figures representing a spider, a hummingbird, a killer whale, a monkey and other creatures in the Peruvian Pampa in the years around the time of the birth of Christ.

The designs are spread over 120 square miles and are best seen from the air.

In his popular book, "In Search of Ancient Astronauts," Erich von Daniken proposed the theory that aliens once landed in ancient Peru. He said the natives were inspired to draw the designs and "runways" as invitations to the extraterrestrials for a return visit.

Spanish colonisers thought the designs were roads and an early 20th-century archaeologist speculated they were irrigation ditches.

Pituga, 47, has mapped some of the animal designs' relationships to the sun, stars and the seasons by using the planetarium's Zeiss projector. The device can recreate the night sky for a distant time and place.

Her hypothesis is that the Nazca, who flourished for over 1,000 years in river valleys leading to the Pacific Ocean, used the figures to plot the stars and

determine the time for planting, harvesting and religious ceremonies.

She says the flaws in their desert calendar may have triggered disarray and divisiveness in the thriving Nazca culture when the timepieces no longer worked.

"If you try to coordinate the sun, the moon and the stars over a period of centuries, it will no longer remain coherent," she said. "Because these stars kept changing position, the thing didn't work and that might have pulled the society apart."

Archaeologists have found evidence that ceremonial activities declined around the start of the eighth century, suggesting the loosely-united culture disintegrated politically or was conquered by tribes from the Andes mountains to the east.

Pituga has been concentrating

on a spider figure about 50 yards across and the two straight lines running through it. She says the spider lined up with the constellation Orion in the southern hemisphere.

For a century around the birth of Christ, the setting sun in the area of the drawings lined up opposite this rising constellation at the outset of the harvest season in May. Pituga says the Nazca used both the setting sun and rising stars for determining the date.

"One night I was out on the Pampa watching the sunset, waiting for the crescent moon," she recalls. "I kept waiting, waiting until finally I turned around and all of the lines were glowing, reflecting the sunlight I had been looking at."

"Not only were the lines glowing but the sky was black in

that direction and I could see the stars had already risen. It was really one of those astounding moments... a scientific revelation."

To make the figures, the Indians cleared away a single layer of iron-rich rocks in narrow troughs to expose a bright yellow clay underneath.

The figures have survived because rainfall averages less than an inch a year on the desert plain and the rocks are heavy enough to resist the wind. But car tracks have disfigured some of the markings.

Today, visitors are chased from the fragile designs by guards. In 1974, on Reiche's urging, the Peruvian government declared the area an archaeological zone.

Only Pituga, Reiche and Reiche's sister, Renate, are allowed near them.

Soviet 'Rambo' conquering evil Americans is Moscow's summer hit

By Kenneth Jantz
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — A Red Army "Rambo" is the summer hit in Moscow moviehouses, where a celluloid hero dubbed Major Shatokin does battle with evil CIA agents and American soldiers bent on starting World War III.

The violence-packed thriller, called "Solo Voyage" ("odinochnoye plavaniye"), depicts American officials as war-mongering madmen willing to do almost anything in the name of capitalism and profit.

In bloody action scenes, Shatokin and his comrades, fighting against overwhelming odds, kill about 10 American soldiers. But Shatokin remains a gentle person at heart.

When not dispatching his enemies with knives or machine guns, he speaks fondly of his Russian homeland, doing so usually while gazing at the setting sun and to a gentle orchestral accompaniment.

The movie's release follows a long-running Soviet press campaign attacking "Rambo," "Red Dawn" and similar

American movies for allegedly fostering violence and anti-Soviet sentiment.

But, in some ways, "Solo Voyage" — a production of the state-run Mosfilm which gives a screen credit to Anatoly Gromyko, son of Soviet President Andrei Gromyko, as a political consultant — mirrors the Rambo theme.

In "Rambo: First Blood Part II," Sylvester Stallone plays a Vietnam veteran who returns to southeast Asia and is tortured by a sadistic Soviet KGB agent. In "Red Dawn," the Soviet Union and allies invade the United States through Mexico and subject the populace to propaganda and deprivation.

The Soviet movie unfolds with CIA agents and American businessmen meeting secretly on a Florida golf course to plot ways to stir up anti-Soviet public opinion.

Fearing that an improvement in U.S.-Soviet relations would jeopardise profitable defence contracts, they plan to sink an American cruise liner with 1,500 people aboard and blame it on Moscow.

The plot backfires. U.S.

mercenary sent to a secret South Pacific missile base on the evil mission instead take over the base and plan a nuclear rocket attack to start World War III.

They are stopped, with only milliseconds to spare, by Shatokin and four young commandos.

The film features more graphic violence than most Soviet films. In one scene, a crazed U.S. army major strangles his Asian orderly. The movie then shows clips of U.S. soldiers abusing Vietnamese during the Vietnam war.

The actors who play American parts speak in Russian-accented English, audible beneath a narrator's Russian translation.

The Americans drink can after can of Coca-Cola, show no feelings and use English obscenities.

The Soviet commands restrict themselves to language that involves nothing stronger than the Russian equivalent of "dam it."

The single peace-loving American in the film is a man named Harrison, who is sailing with his wife when their boat is destroyed. She gets killed by an American mercenary and he joins

the Soviet attack on the secret base, killing U.S. agents with a submarine gun.

"As we sat watching the movie, it became clear to us that this was our version of Rambo," said a 19-year-old Muscovite who watched with a group of friends. He asked not to be named.

He said he had seen a black market video of the Stallone film in Moscow.

"This was horrible, too," he said when asked his opinion of the Soviet movie.

But "Solo Voyage" has proved popular. At the 250-seat Star cinema, an usher said the movie had been sold out every night since it opened about a week ago.

The film also is available on videotapes for rent in the capital's three video salons.

But it has not sparked the overt displays of American patriotism connected with "Rambo." Soviet crowds, whether at movies, theatres or sporting events, are low-key by Western standards.

"There are not too many (action) movies like this," said a student who identified himself only as Arthur. "I liked it, but I did not think it was anti-American."

Dubai zoo to collect rare Gulf species

DUBAI (R) — The hunter's rifle has all but wiped out many of the animals that once roamed the mountains and deserts of the Arabian peninsula, but several Gulf states are now trying to save their precious wildlife heritage.

Dubai is the latest to mount a conservation drive, planning a zoo designed to collect, preserve and possibly breed rare and endangered species.

The Arabian tahr, a wild mountain goat, is now rarely sighted. The oryx, a long-horned antelope which once ranged over vast expanses of Arabian desert, ceased living in the wild in 1972, although small herds have been

reintroduced in Oman.

Conservationists say many species of desert fox, rodents and reptiles, as well as lynxes, leopards and other members of the cat family native to the region, have also fallen victim to modern development.

"It is sad that some of these animals can be found in some European and American zoos but are unknown in the Gulf, either in their natural habitat or in captivity," said Hans Lockau, an adviser to the Dubai municipality on the zoo project.

The 30-million dirham (\$8 million) zoo, to be built in a natural oasis on the outskirts of

Dubai, is still in the early planning stages. But Lockau said it intends to have breeding groups for the rarer local species.

"The government is fortunately aware of how important it is to preserve the natural heritage... its intention is to create a mainly local zoo that will focus on animals indigenous to the Gulf and the arid zones of Africa and the Indian subcontinent," he said.

"Whatever animals are not available locally we are hopeful of getting overseas."

Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, United Arab Emirates (UAE) defence minister, has already started a

wildlife research centre in Dubai with several captive breeding projects.

One has succeeded in breeding the houbara bustard, the traditional quarry of bedouin hunters.

The Dubai government has engaged a joint venture consisting of the local firm Arif and Bintouk and Britain's John Bonington to prepare a zoo master plan and feasibility study.

Construction tenders may be invited by the middle of next year, and the zoo could open in 1988, largely replacing a cramped, conventional zoo in the Dubai suburb of Jumeirah.

25 per cent fewer Jews

By Walter Schwarz

"DISENCHANTMENT" with religion has helped to reduce the number of British Jews to 330,000, a decline of 25 per cent in 30 years, Mr. Eric Moonman, chairman of the research committee of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, said last week on publication of a new report.

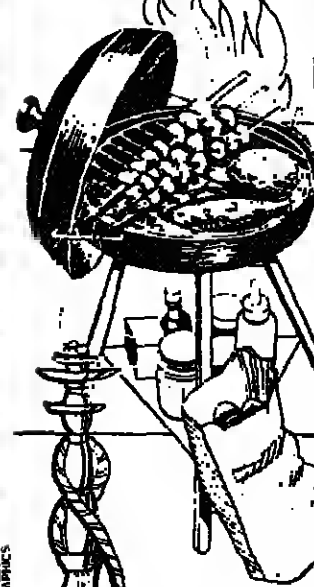
Only half of British Jews now marry in synagogues, and the population is also ageing rapidly, the report says. However, the

dwindling Jewish population appears to be more religious, with enrolment at Jewish day schools up from 9,000 to 14,000 and synagogue attendances also higher.

The report says that the low rates for synagogue marriage were caused by "emigration of young people, civil marriages among Jews, non-marriage, new alternatives to conventional marriage, or outmarriage with a Gentile partner" — The Guardian.

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Brawl hurts British hopes of return to UEFA soccer

LONDON (AP) — A bloody brawl by more than 100 soccer fans travelling abroad to watch their teams in a series of pre-season games could set back "for years" English hopes of returning to European club competition, officials said Friday.

"This is very serious news," said Sports Minister Richard Tracey after rival English fans clashed Thursday night on a North Sea ferry taking them to watch games in The Netherlands.

Five fans were injured, three with stab wounds, and 14 arrested. English teams were barred indefinitely from major European club competitions following last year's Heysel Stadium riots in Brussels at the European Champions Cup final between Liverpool of England and Juventus of Italy.

Liverpool fans were widely blamed for starting the violence that led to 39 deaths, most of them Italian.

Tracey said that until Thursday's violence, the record of English fans since the Brussels tragedy had improved considerably.

"Over the last domestic season we have seen a very good improvement in crowd behaviour," he said.

"We also saw an improvement in the behaviour of the fans at the World Cup in Mexico."

"The clubs were now hoping that some time in the future, UEFA, the European governing body, would lift the ban for English clubs in European competitions."

"I always felt it would take probably another season of consistent good behaviour. But this sort of behaviour is the kind of thing which could set us back for years. It is certainly not going to impress UEFA in the slightest."

Describing those responsible for the fighting as "absolute idiots," Tracey added: "It is something I feel very sad about because we have been working very hard with our football authorities and through them with UEFA to build-up a good relationship again."

"It is a tragedy that this sort of thing should be happening with these so-called friendlies."

The rioting involved supporters of Manchester United, Everton and West Ham, who had joined 2,000 other passengers, mostly vacationers, on the Dutch ferry, Koningen Beatrix.

After drinking in the ship's tax-free bars, the rival fans turned on one another with knives, bottles and other weapons as the ferry was halfway towards its destination at The Hook of Holland.

The ship's captain turned round and headed back to Harwich on the English coast where police led away 110 people.



Anatoly Karpov, shown here during last year's chess title match, has reason to smile after bouncing back with a 32-move win in his challenge against world champion Garry Kasparov (file photo)

Karpov levels chess series

LONDON (R) — The sixth game in the world chess championship between title holder Garry Kasparov and challenger Anatoly Karpov has been adjourned until Monday at the champion's request, the organisers said Friday.

The adjournment was the first since play started last week at London's Park Lane hotel. The players are allowed three adjournment requests each.

Kasparov will play white when the game starts at 1600 GMT on Monday.

On Wednesday, Karpov won the fifth game of the world chess championship, levelling his challenge against defending champion Kasparov.

The 32-move win turned around a match that had begun strongly in Kasparov's favour. The score is now 2½ to 2½ with one win apiece and three draws.

The 23-year-old champion on Wednesday chose a sharp new variation of the Gruenfeld defence and both players rattled off their first 18 moves to reach a position which had experts in

heated debate. As the game developed, it became clear that Kasparov had wrongly assessed the position and a full house of spectators saw a demonstration of Karpov's iron technique.

The champion managed to create complications but hesitated after sacrificing a pawn.

After a long think, Kasparov became flushed and international master Paul Littlewood said: "It was clear he realised he had missed something."

Karpov kept Kasparov's pieces bottled up and remorselessly trained his sights on weak pawns. In the final position Kasparov was faced with the loss of a second pawn and still had not managed a glimmer of counterplay. Finally, he extended his hand and conceded the game.

Grandmaster Tony Miles blamed the champion's defeat on poor opening preparation.

This is a rare event as Karpov has often acknowledged that his rival is without peer in the early phase of the game.

Mansell takes lead on new track

By Ian Keresey
Reuters

BUDAPEST — Briton Nigel Mansell, the driver with one hand on the Formula One championship, celebrated his 32nd birthday Friday by signing a new contract with Williams and dominating opening practice for Sunday's Hungarian Grand Prix.

Mansell, with four triumphs behind him this season and determined to become the first man to win a Grand Prix in Eastern Europe, shot round the tight, twisting 4.014 kilometre Hungaroring circuit in one minute 30.516 seconds (159.645 kph).

His closest challenger was his own teammate Nelson Piquet of Brazil, rated one of Mansell's biggest obstacles in his bid for the title.

And while Mansell smilingly accepted a birthday cake from his mechanics after stepping from his car, his team chief Frank Williams ended weeks of speculation over his driver's future by announcing that Mansell had agreed to stay on for another two years.

Williams, still wheelchair-bound after his road crash in France earlier this year, said: "I am delighted that we have been able to celebrate his birthday by coming to an agreement and we are looking forward very much to the next couple of years."

"When Nigel joined us in 1985 we felt we were taking on a driver with considerable potential, only a little of which had at that point been realised."

"I think he has since proved to us, and to the racing public in general, that he is truly world class and a match for anyone."

Mansell has certainly shown his worth at Williams and he now looks poised to increase his seven point championship lead still further this weekend.

For the last month or so almost every team manager has attempted to persuade Mansell away from Williams. The queue included mighty Ferrari.

Piquet, winner in West Germany two weeks ago, has made a late charge at Mansell. He trails him by 13 points overall but

the gap could close appreciably if he stages a repeat triumph in Hungary. The Brazilian, who had already signed a fresh contract with Williams, clocked 1:31.417. Behind Piquet was the Lotus of compatriot Ayrton Senna, complaining like many other drivers about the lack of grip on the track.

Senna experienced a spin for the second day running but then managed 1:32.681 later.

Reigning champion Alain Prost of France, like Senna, still in contention for the crown, had the fifth best time of 1:33.113 in his McLaren.

But the day belonged to Mansell, who said: "We seem to have found a bit more grip than the other people. It's certainly a tight corner. When you go round the corners here you leave your stomach behind."

Mansell rated pole position of paramount importance on the Hungaroring because their are few places where overtaking is possible. "It's just like Monaco," he said.

Norman leads PGA with an opening 65

TOLEDO, Ohio (R) — Greg Norman, not content with his British Open crown, made a strong bid for his second straight major title by shooting a course record 65 Thursday to take the first-round lead in the American PGA Championship.

"Now that I've won one I'm going to be working harder and harder," the big blond Australian said after going six under par to take a two-stroke lead over Craig Stadler and Phil Blackmar.

Norman and many other players in the field of 150 professionals benefited from overnight rains which softened up the tiny, testy greens at Inverness, which had been made rock hard by a long summer heat wave.

"I'm glad it rained last night," Norman admitted.

Stadler, who won the 1973 U.S. Amateur Championship at Inverness, was also happy the course softened up a little. He might have been within stroke of the leader had he not three-putted the 17th green.

Blackmar, who has been struggling this summer — "I

couldn't hit a barn from 100 feet" — was also pleased after he marched Stadler's 67.

"Other than the bogey at 18, I was pleased with my round," he said.

Jack Nicklaus was also happy with his opening round of 70 even though he bogeyed the 16th and 17th holes.

It was his best start in this year's four major championships and he was looking forward to the weekend.

"There's still three rounds to go," he said with a gleam in his eyes.

The 46-year-old Nicklaus brought back memories when he opened with a birdie three on the 398-yard first hole.

As a 17-year-old amateur in the 1957 U.S. Open at Inverness Nicklaus also opened up with a birdie and for a brief moment he led the Open.

Becker survives match points

STRATTON MOUNTAIN, Vt (R) — Wimbledon champion Boris Becker of West Germany saved two match points to escape an upset Thursday in a third-round match at the \$315,000 Stratton Mountain men's Grand Prix tennis tournament.

Becker, the second seed, survived with a 6-2, 3-6, 7-6 (9-7) win over 15th-seeded American Kevin Curren, his final opponent at Wimbledon in 1985 when he won his first of two successive titles there.

After the two split sets to draw even at six games all in the third set, Curren raced ahead 4-0 in the tiebreak. The first match point came with Curren ahead 6-4, but Becker saved it with a backhand down the line. An ace from Becker then saved a second match point and made the score six-all.

After that, Becker moved ahead to match point on a service winner. Curren saved it with a service winner but a volley error sent him match point down again and Becker produced another ace for the victory.

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- 1) The Ministry of Health in Jordan has received a loan from the World Bank towards the cost of construction of health centres. Tendering is hereby open to all prequalified tenderers, the list of whom has been approved by the lender.
- 2) The Government Tenders Directorate now invites sealed tenders from prequalified tenderers for the construction of the first group of buildings of Health Centres in Irbid District comprising (4120 sq.m.) as follows.

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Note (the groups numbered 2-6 will follow in sequence).

- 3) Interested prequalified tenderers may obtain copies of tender documents from the Govt. Tenders Directorate - Amman against a non-refundable fee of (JD 100) for each set.
- 4) All tenders must be accompanied by a tender guarantee from an approved bank operating in Jordan in the value of (JD 15000), valid for (120) days.
- 5) Last day for purchase of tender sets is Sept. 6th, 1986.
- 6) Tenders shall be deposited at the Govt. Tenders Directorate not later than 12.00 noon on Sat. 20th, Sept. 1986.

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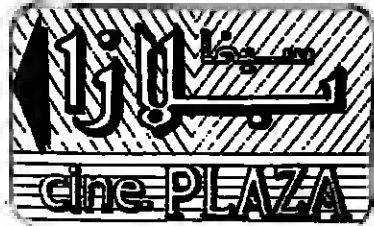
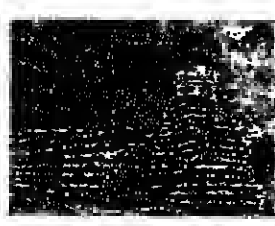
MR. ROBIN BELLERBY M.A., PRINCIPAL OF DAVIES'S COLLEGE, HOVE, ENGLAND, will present a seminar at the British Council lecture room at 7 p.m. on Tuesday the 12th August, 1986.

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Mr. Bellerby can be contacted at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel - Tel. 641361 - starting Saturday 9.8.1986 to arrange for an appointment.

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LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One sterling	1.4757/67	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3810/15	Canadian dollars
	2.0735/45	West German marks
	2.3655/75	Dutch guilders
	1.6720/30	Swiss francs
	42.92/97	Belgian francs
	6.7330/80	French francs
	142.61/427	Italian lire
	153.90/154.00	Japanese yen
	6.9550/9650	Swedish crowns
	7.3875/3985	Norwegian crowns
	7.7675/7775	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	362.70/363.20	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Shares closed lower on lack of interest, despite early technical attempts to move prices up in response to the past two session's declines. Dealers said early buying for the new account fizzled out leaving shares to drift in the absence of new factors. At 1400 Friday the F.T. 30 index was down 8.1 to 1,213.4 and at 1430 the FTSE 100 had fallen 7.1 to 1,522.8 after a mid-session low of 1,519.7. Engineering shares closed with pared gains after having risen earlier on selective demand after the past two days' falls on GKN's warning over its profits. GKN closed 4p down at 274. Dealers said prices started to rise early in the session as bargain hunters came in to pick up shares at the lower levels after the past two days' sharp declines. By noon this interest waned, although business picked up late in the day following the higher opening on Wall Street. With no major companies announcing figures Friday, operators tended to stand back from the market, leaving shares to drift ahead of the weekend, dealers said. Among engineers T. Group closed 2p up at 465 after a high of 476 on reconsideration of Thursday's interims.

YOUR DAILY
Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The daytime brings you a good chance to do whatever errands and shopping need to be done. Get yourself in top physical condition for next week.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Daytime should be spent handling whatever needs your attention. Be happy with friends tonight.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Make plans for recreation in the near future. Tonight do what will please your mate the most.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Take time to improve some home situation. Handle those tasks that you have been neglecting.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Handle public affairs nicely. Don't permit an older associate to monopolize your time.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) A good day to get your property in better order and show that you are practical. Take it easy tonight.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Plan how to be more successful in your personal affairs. Steer clear of amusements tonight.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Plan a new course that will help you to get ahead faster and develop more intelligently. Enjoy your friends.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Ideal day to talk over future activities with your friends and study advice given to you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Get busy at credit and public affairs that you can handle today. Avoid outside duties.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Study new interests during the daytime and make good use of data you have gathered.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You can handle obligations very carefully today. Be happy with your mate in the evening.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Find out from associates how you stand with them and come to a better understanding.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be able to work out detailed plans for worthwhile purposes and should have courses added in school that will be helpful with this talent. Teach self-discipline early also since upon reaching adulthood your progeny could be a positive dynamo, male or female.

Saudi Arabia launches
Islamic insurance firm

RIYADH (AP) — Saudi Arabia has created a company to practise interest-free Islamic insurance, it was reported here Thursday.

The English-language newspaper Saudi Gazette said the National Company for Cooperative Insurance (NCCI) will undertake cooperative insurance and reinsurance in accordance with the Islamic law, known as Sharia.

Citing excerpts from the NCCI's charter, the paper said that "all transactions are completely interest-free whether directly stated or remotely implied."

The new company has been capitalised at 500 million riyals (\$133.3 million) as a joint stock company. Its initial holders are the Public Investment Fund (50 per cent), the General Organisation for Social Insurance (25 per cent) and the Pension Fund (25 per cent).

The company may issue

additional stock to the public later, the paper said.

Islamic insurance has become a priority for the Saudi government because it requires insurance on most government-financed industries.

The Public Investment Fund finances most of the kingdom's petrochemical plants. The Saudi Industrial Development Fund (SIDF) is involved in smaller businesses.

The Islamic Jurisprudence Academy last December dismissed insurance unacceptable under Sharia, insisting that the only permissible system is cooperative insurance.

The Islamic argument against most types of insurance is that it involves interest, which is rejected as usurious, and that it tends to nullify the will of God.

Cooperative insurance appears to provide insurance without transgressing these boundaries.

W. Germany to help plead
Egypt's case before IMF

CAIRO (R) — West German Economy Minister Martin Bangemann said Thursday Bonn would help explain the political situation in Egypt before the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in order to ease terms for economic assistance.

Mr. Bangemann told Cairo television in an interview: "Germany is trying to assist in putting forward some of (Egypt's) political arguments."

Because of the risk of unrest if Cairo suddenly removes 30-year-old economic props, such as food and energy subsidies, Egypt is expected to plead for minimum restructuring conditions when it seeks IMF standby credits.

"It is true that the IMF is only regarding these problems in light of economic realities, but apart from that we also have political realities. You (Egypt) have to introduce economic reforms that are politically feasible," Mr. Bangemann added.

President Hosni Mubarak said earlier that Egypt would try to reschedule some of its estimated \$36 billion foreign debt and would seek balance of payments support from the IMF.

Mr. Bangemann said he expected the current drop in oil prices, which has harmed the Egyptian economy, would not last and prices would recover.

Mr. Bangemann said: "I have warned those in Germany who are convinced that the reduction in oil prices will last a long time. It will be a short period of reduction of prices."

Egypt is the second largest recipient of West German aid after India and is receiving \$268 million marks (\$139 million) from Bonn this year.

Paris starts drive to aid
drought-stricken farmers

PARIS (R) — Agriculture Minister Francois Guillaume Thursday set in motion emergency measures to help French farmers whose crops have been left withering in the fields by drought for the second consecutive year.

"Four-fifths of France is affected by the drought," Mr. Guillaume told a news conference. "It is hitting the same regions as last year."

Most of the measures he announced were aimed at helping livestock rearers, who face disaster over the winter as their fodder crops have failed.

Many parts of southern France have had no rain for more than two months, delighting the tourists who flock there from all over Europe but spreading despair among farmers.

Mr. Guillaume said France would seek 400,000 tonnes of cut-price barley from the European Community (EC) to compensate for the drought.

almost twice the volume of last year's aid.

He said the cost of straw would be fixed to prevent scarcity driving up prices and he appointed a senior official to oversee fodder transport around the country.

But he said no emergency funds would be made available for farmers, who had called for a special "drought tax" and a cash bonus for every head of livestock.

Hardest-hit is the south west where rainfall this year is the lowest since records began at the Toulouse weather centre in 1947.

The chamber of agriculture in the Haute Garonne region, bordering the Pyrenees, estimates that maize and sunflower crops will be about 30 per cent down on last year's figure, itself drought-hit.

Experts say the long-term consequences of the drought will be particularly bad since irrigation is being made increasingly difficult.

U.S. budget deficit may top \$224b

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) on Thursday projected a record budget deficit this year and said billions of dollars in cuts are necessary to meet next year's goals despite earlier, much-publicised spending reductions.

President Ronald Reagan's administration, which is also predicting a record deficit, and congressional leaders remain upbeat that they'll tackle the problems somehow next month.

The Congressional Budget Office projected about \$224 billion in deficit for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30. Although it is \$6 billion lower than the estimate released Wednesday by Reagan's Office of Management and Budget (OMB), it would still eclipse the \$212 billion deficit record set in 1985.

In reports come a year after Congress passed a fiscal 1986 budget predicting just \$172 billion in deficit, and five months after the first spending cuts under the Gramm-Rudman law, which trimmed \$11.7 billion across the board.

Mr. Reagan's top economic and budget advisers said Wednesday that slower-than-expected growth in the economy was to blame for the record red ink, along with higher spending on military and farm programmes.

Their predictions of a new economic boom were delayed, not wrong, they said.

But even if the economy rebounds in the next few months and through next year, continuing current services would leave a fiscal 1987 deficit of \$171.5 billion, the OMB said.

Using the same standard but a less rosy economic forecast, the CBO on Thursday predicted \$184 billion in red ink next year, \$40 billion over the Gramm-Rudman target. Even if Congress did everything it promised in its budget resolution, which was designed to meet the mandate, the deficit would be \$161 billion, the office said.

The office joined the Reagan administration in placing much of the blame for the record deficit on a sluggish economy, along with higher spending for military and farm programmes.

"Slower performance, especially in the second quarter of this year, accounted for about \$7 billion of increase in the deficit but most of it was spending overruns," Mr. Beryl Sprinkel, chairman of

Analysts believe growth
forecasts to be optimistic

Meanwhile the White House has forecast 3.2 per cent U.S. economic growth this year but the figure outstrips most major private predictions and flies in the face of some which project a recession.

The predictions, released Wednesday as part of the administration's mid-year review of the budget, also show the economy rebounding sharply to expand a robust 4.2 per cent in 1987. That is more confident than private projections.

Like the less optimistic forecasts of the independent Federal Reserve Board, released a few weeks ago, the private forecasts depend chiefly on a decline in the trade deficit, brought about by faster economic growth in major trading partners such as West Germany and Japan.

Economists said Wall Street has long been sceptical of the Reagan administration's economic predictions and release of the figures had no impact on markets.

Some leading American forecasters put economic growth this year at 2.8 per cent, rising to

3.5 per cent next year. But major firms such as Merrill Lynch see the economy expanding a mere 2.1 per cent this year, declining to 1.5 per cent growth in 1987.

Mr. Edward Yardeni of the Prudential-Bache securities firm predicted the economy would contract at a two per cent annual rate in the second half of this year.

"All kinds of bad things are going on, the (low) oil price has been a big negative... and there's a depression in the farm belt," he told Reuters.

"There's a recession going on in manufacturing and there's a depression in mining. That's 20 to 30 per cent of the economy," noted Mr. Alan Sinai, chief economist of Shearson Lehman Brothers.

Mr. Sprinkel told reporters one reason the economy should pick up — it expanded at a meagre 2.4 per cent annual rate in the first six months — was the probable passage of a tax reform bill in the next few weeks.

That development, he said, should remove some of the uncertainty surrounding business investment.

"It's a very deflationary package," Mr. Yardeni said, pointing out that measures now in the bill such as the elimination of investment tax credits and stretched out depreciation allowances would eliminate the incentive to invest.

Mr. Sprinkel also vigorously rejected charges the forecast ignored the risks of a recession.

"I don't consider it (the forecast) rosy. I consider it real," he said, adding that he did not fear the expansion would peter out.

"I'm not concerned about this one expiring shortly."

He said the outlook for the trade deficit, now running at a record annual rate of \$170 billion, had improved.

He argued that the economies of major trading partners in Europe and Japan would improve and expand U.S. export markets, and the lower dollar would begin biting into imports significantly.

But there are few signs that either West Germany — Europe's dominant economy — or Japan are ready to yield to U.S. demands.

Reagan wins trade vote

On other trade issues, President Reagan defeated a congressional threat to his free trade policy when

the House sustained his veto of textile and shoe quotas, but only with the help of White House pressure and international deals.

The House vote of 276 to 149 Wednesday night was seven shy of the two-thirds majority needed to override a presidential veto.

But Mr. Reagan had to personally lobby congressmen to side with him for an unrestricted trade policy, saying quotas could trigger retaliation and a full blown trade war.

The bill would have slapped quotas on all textile exporters to the United States, hitting hardest at Hong Kong, Taiwan and South Korea.

It also would have imposed quotas on shoe imports and required negotiations with foreign copper producers to limit their exports.

Although the vote was close in the Democrat-controlled House, the margin was large enough to be considered a resounding win and perhaps the president's most significant trade victory with Congress to date.

It came despite hard times in the textile and shoe industries and what is shaping up to a possible new record U.S. trade deficit of \$170 billion.

Helping Mr. Reagan were several recent international trade deals that congressional aides said swung some votes for him.

These included a newly negotiated Multi-Fibre Arrangement (MFA) concluded last week to provide a multilateral framework for negotiating trade agreements among developed and developing nations.

Also helping was a new accord on computer microchips and an administration decision, under pressure from farm state congressmen, to sell subsidised wheat to the Soviet Union.

Representatives from wheat states voted heavily to support Mr. Reagan's position.

Mr. Reagan was enthusiastic about the vote, telling drug and alcohol abuse specialists in nearby Virginia: "Your present speaker comes before you a very happy fellow."

U.S. trade representative, Mr. Clayton Yeutter, told reporters after the vote many congressmen did not understand the complexities of international trade.

"I have empathy and compassion for those suffering economic difficulties," he said.

Oteiba sees 'long road ahead' for OPEC

ABU DHABI (AP) — United Arab Emirates Oil Minister Mana Saied Oteiba returned from Geneva Thursday saying there was "still a long road ahead" for the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) before permanent solutions to the problems of the world oil market are secured.

Dr. Oteiba stressed the need for adherence by group's member states to the decisions reached for temporary cutbacks in production and urged non-OPEC oil producers to help by reducing their outputs.

The official Emirates News Agency quoted Dr. Oteiba as saying he was "satisfied" with the Geneva decisions which had "already produced palpable results" on the market with the rising oil prices.

"There is a long road ahead for OPEC to continue its path in the right direction to lead to permanent solutions to the problems of the world oil market," Dr. Oteiba added.

"The conference decisions put all the (OPEC) member states to the test to prove the extent of their seriousness and adherence to those important decisions," Dr. Oteiba went on. "Non-OPEC oil producers should hasten to help buttress these decisions by

reducing their output." "The coming few days will show the extent of credibility of oil producers and the extent of their determination to implement what they pledged so that the glut on the market disappears and stability is restored to the market to push prices up to reasonable levels," he said.

Dr. Oteiba said that at the instructions of President Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the United Arab Emirates had played and would play a positive role to boost those decisions and "guarantee a fair share of the market for OPEC."

The Geneva OPEC plan calls

for all members, except Iraq, to slash production in September and October from about 20.5 million barrels a day to around 16.7 million.

Under the plan, which was a return to the OPEC production quotas fixed in October 1984, the United Arab Emirates will be sliding its daily output from a current estimated figure of 1.6 million barrels to 950,000 barrels.

The Kuwaiti oil minister, also returning from Geneva, had predicted that oil prices will reach \$17 or \$18 a barrel by next October, as a result of the OPEC efforts.

Peanuts



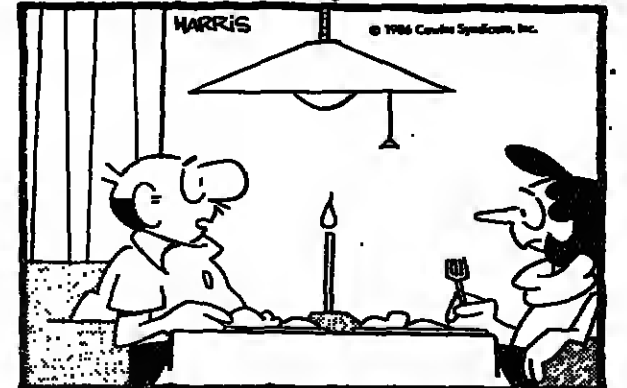
Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"I dyed the potatoes blue so they'd go nice with the red snapper."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CANEP

PLIMB

ONBEAM

VINOSI

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

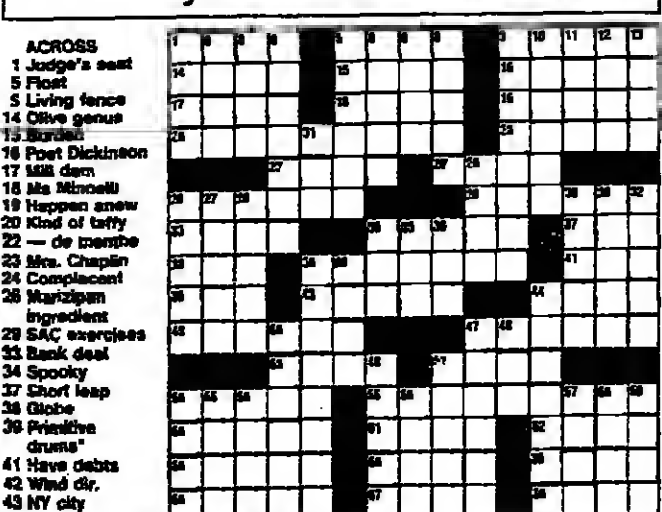
Answer: THIS "O O O O O O O O" WERE IN "O O O O O O O O"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GRIMY CHANT TALLOW SWERVE

Answer: People who are too anxious to make a living have sometimes forgotten this—HOW TO LIVE

THE Daily Crossword by Evelyn Walsh



Across

1 Judge's seat

5 Foot

14 Living fence

15 Olive genus

16 Post Dickinson

17 Mill dam

18 Ms. Minelli

19 Huggins' answer

22 Kind of lily

23 — de mamba

24 Mrs. Chaplin

25 Compliment

26 Ingredient

28 SAC acronym

32 Bank deal

34 Spooky

37 Short leap

38 Globe

39 Primitive

40 "dum"

41 Have debts

42 Wind dir.

43 NY city

44 Yarned part

45 Owl tweet

47 Raggle

49 Ecologist's concern

51 Plava

52 Like certain rock

55 Kind of park

60 Father: Lat.

61 Olympic event

62 Monsoon state

63 Carpal

64 Hamilton's opponent

65 Hoax's bishop

66 Above aside

67 Maple

68 Maple sound

DOWN

1 Answer for

2 Answer for

3 Answer for

4 Answer for

6 Answer for

7 Answer for

8 Answer for

9 Answer for

10 Answer for

11 Answer for

12 Answer for

13 Answer for

19 Answer for

20 Answer for

21 Answer for

23 Answer for

24 Answer for

26 Answer for

27 Answer for

29 Answer for

30 Answer for

31 Answer for

33 Answer for

35 Answer for

36 Answer for

38 Answer for

39 Answer for

40 Answer for

42 Answer for

44 Answer for

4

Ex-CIA agent's 'costly' defection raises charges of U.S. bungling

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The defection to the Soviet Union of a former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) agent whose grooming for a top spy post in Moscow gave him access to vital information has stoked charges of bungling by U.S. intelligence.

TASS news agency said in Moscow on Thursday that the Soviet parliament had granted an asylum request by the ex-agent, Edward Lee Howard, 34, on humanitarian grounds.

Mr. Howard, accused by the Justice Department of selling highly damaging intelligence data to Moscow, was the first former CIA agent to seek asylum in the Soviet Union, U.S. intelligence sources said.

The Justice department had been searching for him since September when he slipped from under the noses of a Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) surveillance team and disappeared, sparking strong congressional criticism of U.S. counter-intelligence.

Mr. Howard sold his secrets to Moscow after he was dismissed from the CIA in 1983, according to FBI officials. They said his disclosures devastated U.S. spy networks in the Soviet Union and apparently led to the execution of a key U.S. agent.

"Both the CIA and the FBI are taking a hard look at themselves

because of this mistake," Senator Patrick Leahy, vice-chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, told reporters Thursday. "There were mistakes all around."

The Vermont Democrat said Mr. Howard had done serious damage, and more harm was likely. "The Soviets are relentless about getting every bit of information he has," he said.

Former CIA official George Carver, now with Georgetown University, told a television audience the CIA had erred in not keeping a closer watch on Mr. Howard after he had failed a CIA lie detector test and been accused of drug use in 1983.

Mr. Howard was dismissed and allowed to go his own way. "He was told too much too soon — too many details," Mr. Carver said, referring to Mr. Howard's CIA training to become a spy-master in Moscow.

He was never sent to Moscow, but intelligence sources said his training included details which would allow Moscow to dismantle the U.S. networks.

Mr. Howard told CIA colleagues soon after being fired that he was thinking of selling secrets to Moscow out of revenge, intelligence sources said. But he was not placed under surveillance until being fingered as a spy by Soviet defector Vitaly Yurchenko, who later redeployed to Moscow.

After leaving the CIA, Mr. Howard went to work for the New Mexico state legislature. He is thought to have fled to the Soviet Union via Mexico after a tip-off from Moscow.

Mr. Howard's defection was the first by an American to the Soviet Union since the 1960s, when two National Security Agency workers and several U.S. servicemen protesting the Vietnam war took asylum.

The defection recalls the celebrated spy scandals involving British defectors Kim Philby, Donald Maclean and Guy Burgess.

The Los Angeles Times, quoting unidentified sources, has said Mr. Howard sold the Soviets details of the CIA's operations in Moscow. The information reportedly led to the execution of one of the U.S. intelligence agency's prime contacts, identified as A.G. Tolkachev.

"Howard disclosed virtually every active operation we had," it quoted an unidentified source as saying. "He wiped out Moscow

station."

Rope performers defect

Two famous Soviet high-wire performers — a husband and wife — fled the Moscow Circus while touring Argentina and defected to the United States on Thursday.

They left behind three other members of their troupe, including two relatives, who decided to stay with the circus in Buenos Aires.

Nikolai Nikolaevich Nikolski and his wife, Bertalina Mijailovna Cazakova, were quickly cleared through customs at Miami international airport and taken away in a blue government car for interviews with immigration authorities.

The couple told immigration officials they had been planning their escape for several years but had waited for the proper moment to defect.

The Argentine news agency Telam said the pair fled a Buenos Aires hotel two days ago and told U.S. officials in the Argentine capital they wanted to defect because there was no freedom in the Soviet Union.

The couple, part of a five-member high-wire acrobatic act for the Moscow Circus, were quickly given visas to travel to the United States, according to an immigration official in Miami who asked that his name be withheld.

'Group of Six' issues arms control plan

EXETER, Mexico (R) — The group of six nations has issued a nuclear test ban verification plan they said could form the basis for a test ban agreement between the superpowers.

"No issue is more urgent and crucial today than bringing to an end all nuclear tests," the group said in the final declaration of its two-day meeting here on Thursday.

The plan is only designed to last for a year but includes all the measures generally regarded as necessary for a permanent test ban agreement, delegates said.

It proposes specific measures which the delegates said would probably cost about \$10 million to implement but leaves open the composition of verification teams.

The group — Mexico, Argentina, Greece, India, Tanzania and Sweden — said it would be prepared to act as monitor, it asked.

The plan proposes setting up seismic instruments at all three test sites recently used by the superpowers, Nevada in the United States, Novaya Zemlya in the Arctic Circle and Semipalatinsk in the Soviet Union.

It says between five and eight seismographs would be needed at each site and that for the sake of speed these need not be specially built as would be the case in monitoring a permanent agreement.

To distinguish between small

earthquakes and possible nuclear explosions, an on-site inspection procedure would be needed.

"If you go to the scene of a tremor and find a mass of heavy tyre tracks, for example, you might get suspicious — you have to go there and check," said one delegate.

The plan says that to cover both countries adequately some 20 or 30 conventional seismic stations in each could be "internationalised" by assigning them observers to make sure seismic cover was complete and continuous.

It calls for the two countries to keep each other fully informed about large chemical explosions, such as those routinely used in mining, to avoid confusion.

Reagan to undergo drug test

WASHINGTON (R) — President Ronald Reagan will be tested for illicit drugs on Monday to dramatise his drive to rid America of drug abuse, the White House said Thursday.

Spokesman Albert Brashear said Mr. Reagan would provide navy doctors with a urine sample which will be tested for traces of marijuana, cocaine, PCP, certain amphetamines, barbiturates and heroin.

Vice President George Bush and more than 70 senior white house staff members will also undergo the voluntary test, but none of the results will be publicly released, Brashear said.

"The president has made it clear he is seeking a drug-free workplace for all Americans. He believes ... federal employees should set the example for state and local government and the private sector to follow," he said.

Mr. Reagan, in launching a nationwide crusade to eliminate what he called the corrosive evil of drug abuse in the United States, told reporters on Monday he and the cabinet would be willing to take the tests to set an example.

Secretary of State George Shultz and Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger already have announced they would submit to drug tests if the president wished. Brashear said next week's tests were proposed by members of the White House staff.

"If it was found, and we certainly do not expect to find that anyone was using drugs, the individual would be counselled," he said.

Brashear said about 78 Reagan aides of the rank of special assistant or higher would be involved in the testing.

"If there are others at a lower level who would like to be involved in the programme, certainly they would be welcome," he said.

Those who are expected to participate in the voluntary programme have been notified by memo, he said. Asked what would happen if a White House official declined to take part in the programme, Brashear replied: "I'm sure it would be noted."

He insisted, however, that an individual who failed to participate or who tested positive for drug use would not be dismissed.

Defence agency Counsellor Kiyohiko Koike told reporters on Friday the government was determined to meet the decade-old target. This will please Washington, which has demanded that Tokyo do more to defend itself.

Japan's defence budget for the current fiscal year is 3,344 trillion yen (\$21.51 billion), or .993 per cent of its GNP.

Critics have called for the removal of the one per cent ceiling, but others say such a move would open the floodgates to defence spending.

In recent years, the United States, which has a mutual defence treaty with Japan, has urged Japan to build up its defence strength more rapidly, particularly its capability to protect the vital sea lanes that it depends on for imports.

Defence Agency Director General Yukio Kurihara said recently that the budget may need to rise above one per cent.

Shultz less certain of summit

NEW ORLEANS (Agencies) — Secretary of State George Shultz on Thursday appeared less certain that President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev would meet this year.

Mr. Shultz told reporters while flying back to the United States from Colombia that a mission to Moscow led by veteran arms control negotiator Paul Nitze was aimed at accelerating Geneva arms talks, regarded as the key to a summit.

Mr. Shultz and other U.S. officials have said for months they were operating on the assumption there would be a summit this year, but Mr. Shultz on Thursday referred only to preparations for a potential meeting.

Mr. Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev agreed in Geneva last November to meet in Washington in 1986, and in Moscow next year.

Mr. Shultz said the aim of Mr. Nitze's mission, which begins this weekend, was "potentially, if

there ever is a meeting between the president and the general secretary, to get that well-prepared," as both sides agreed it should be.

"It's a pretty straightforward effort to develop subjects that are involved in our dialogue a little bit more," he said.

He said there had been a tendency in the Geneva arms talks for new proposals to come at the end of a round, as in the last session when new Soviet proposals were introduced.

Mr. Shultz left unclear what Mr. Reagan had offered in a recent letter to Mr. Gorbachev replying to the Soviet proposals.

Mr. Reagan has scuttled press reports of a "grand compromise" involving delaying deployment of a U.S. missile defence system, known as "Star Wars" or the strategic defence initiative (SDI), in return for Washington's 15-year commitment to the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) treaty.

Reagan's chemical arms plan survives Senate

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Senate has twice rejected challenges to President Ronald Reagan's plan for the United States to resume production of chemical weapons after a 17-year gap but the programme still faces problems in the House of Representatives.

Vice-President George Bush, acting as the Senate's presiding officer, broke a 50-50 tie on Thursday to defeat an amendment to the 1987 defence bill that would have cut funds for the "Bigeye" bomb, the main delivery vehicle for the new generation of chemical arms. Mr. Reagan sought \$72 million.

Earlier, the Senate affirmed Mr. Reagan's right to resume production when it defeated 57-43 an amendment that would have forced the president obtain approval from NATO's highest decision-making body, the North Atlantic Council, before starting production.

Mr. Bush's vote was required twice previously to keep alive Mr.

Reagan's campaign to resume chemical weapons production.

The House of Representatives, led by opposition Democrats, will soon consider an amendment to its defence bill that would bar chemical production. That measure is expected to pass.

Differences ultimately will have to be worked out by House of Representatives and Senate negotiators.

The law currently provides money only for production of the 155-millimetre nerve gas artillery shell, not the controversial "Bigeye," but forbids use of the money until Oct. 1, 1986.

Final assembly of any new chemical arms is barred until October 1987.

The "Bigeye" exploded during testing in 1982. Its critics say it remains so flawed that it may have to be abandoned.

"We have a flawed weapon that is dangerous to our pilots. It won't serve as a deterrent until we can get it fixed," said Democrat Senator David Pryor, a sponsor of

the defeated "Bigeye" amendment.

Another Democratic senator, Sam Nunn, agreed that the bomb was risky but said the United States should start producing it at a low rate to correct an inadequacy in the U.S. ability to "retaliate" with chemical weapons.

The NATO amendment was prompted by Mr. Reagan's recent decision to certify that he had met conditions in a 1986 law authorising him to resume chemical arms production.

In the law Congress said production was contingent on approval by the North Atlantic Council, representing NATO's political leaders.

Critics of chemical weapons felt that domestic political pressures would prevent the council's representatives from approving the programme.

A NATO military review committee approved the U.S. plan and this decision was "noted" last May.

Singapore assails U.S. cut in U.N. contribution

WASHINGTON (AP) — An Asian diplomat has charged that cuts in the U.S. contribution to the United Nations are illegal.

"They are a clear violation of the U.N. treaty," said Tommy Koh, Singapore's ambassador to the United States and a former envoy to the United Nations. "Actions such as these cuts only undermine the integrity of the U.N."

Mr. Koh made the remarks on Thursday at a Heritage Foundation seminar at which he and the ambassadors from West Germany and Algeria recommended reforms at the United Nations, but also lamented U.S. decisions to reduce its financial support for the world body.

Among those in the audience was Allan Keyes, assistant secretary of state for international organisations, the official with much of the responsibility for deciding how the U.N. cuts are made.

In an impromptu response to Mr. Koh, he said the reductions will show the world body that the

United States is serious about the need for reform. The United States "is trying to create a sense of urgency about making the United Nations something that works," he said.

In recent years, the U.S. government has dropped out of U.N. organisations it deemed "propaganda" outlets, notably the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation.

Gunther van Well, a former U.N. representative from West Germany and now envoy to Washington, suggested that countries that oppose the United States in the United Nations should take the initiative in trying to ease the friction creating U.S. disenchantment.

Mohammad Saboun of Algeria, another envoy to Washington who had led his nation's U.N. delegation, called for more control by the U.N. secretary general over budget and personnel matters and decried the proliferation of costly and time-consuming committees to deal with problems.

Accord reached on Thai cabinet

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — After several rounds of negotiations, Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda announced on Friday he would form a new government made up of a four-party coalition.

The coalition will include the Democrat, Social Action (SAP), Chak Thai (Thai Nation), and Rassadorn (Peoples) parties. Mr. Prem said during a news conference at his residence.

Government sources said they expected Mr. Prem to announce his government next week. There is no deadline set by Thai law.

Mr. Prem said the new government, like the previous one, would emphasise rural development. The coalition also is expected to continue Thailand's pro-Western policies.

The prime minister said each party had been allocated a fixed number of cabinet posts and that the cabinet lineup was nearly completed.

Mr. Prem, who has ruled Thailand since March 1980, was nominated for a third term as premier by the four parties after last month's general elections. The constitutional monarch, King Bhumipol Adulyadej, approved the nomination on Tuesday.

The previous four-party coalition, which also included the Democrats and the SAP, fell apart in May when the government was defeated in a house of representatives vote on a government economic decree.

Mr. Prem responded by dissolving the house and calling early general elections.

Tolentino insists on legitimacy

MANILA (AP) — The leader of a failed revolt acknowledged on Friday the "existence" of President Corazon Aquino's government, but claimed he and Ferdinand Marcos still were the nation's legitimate rulers.

Arturo Tolentino, Mr. Marcos' running mate in the Feb. 7 presidential election, told a news conference he agreed to swear allegiance to the republic as part of a compromise under which the government will drop rebellion charges against Mr. Tolentino and 40 others who staged the July 6 mini-revolt.

Mr. Tolentino said he still refused to swear allegiance to Mrs. Aquino's revolutionary constitution, saying it was never ratified by the people.

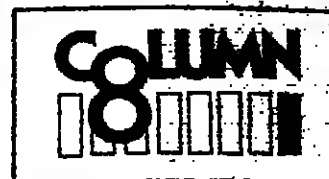
"Such an oath would make me commit mental dishonesty and perjury, and violate my conscience," Mr. Tolentino said.

He said Justice Minister Nepali Gonzales, who announced the compromise on Thursday, showed understanding of the loyalists' position by agreeing to allow them to pledge allegiance to the republic instead of to Mrs. Aquino's constitution.

Mr. Tolentino said the oath that he and other Marcos supporters would take includes an "acknowledgement" of the existence of the present government and a pledge not to use force or violence in any attempt to remove Mrs. Aquino from power.

But he said, "I am still part of the Marcos government. We were both elected, but of course we are dormant. That is the difference — (the Aquino government) is in existence and active, we are dormant."

In the revolt, Mr. Tolentino claimed he and Mr. Marcos had won the fraud-marred election, and proclaimed himself acting president.



Fake gold fools thieves

HONG KONG (AP) — A gang of thieves who robbed a jewellery store discovered that all that glitters is not gold. The thieves, in a July 27 heist, took nine gold-coloured bars displayed in a show window but later dumped them in a restaurant men's room. They left a note complaining of the quality of the merchandise. Lee Kai, general manager of the Tse Sui Luen Jewellery Co., said in a telephone interview Friday that the bars were display items made of bronze and silver coated with gold, and were valued at a total of 6,300 Hong Kong dollars (\$808). Nine genuine solid gold bars would have been worth a total of 844,200 Hong Kong dollars (\$108,230), he said. The thieves also stole jewellery worth 330,000 Hong Kong dollars (\$42,307).

Fitness test breaks legs

NEW DELHI (R) — Chandigarh fire chief R.K. Ranga ordered a dozen of his men to jump, so they did and three broke their legs and the rest suffered other injuries, the Indian Express said Friday. Mr. Ranga denied he was drunk at 2 a.m. on Thursday, when he ordered his men to jump from a 3.6 metre high fire engine to the concrete floor of a fire station to prove their physical fitness, the newspaper said. It said in a report from the joint capital of Haryana and Punjab states that Mr. Ranga threatened to shoot anyone who refused to jump. One man did so in bare feet and broke both legs. Mr. Ranga also ordered one man to run to the roof of the fire station and catch a fly, it said. He told the newspaper he was directed "to activate these chaps who are becoming lazy and developing a paunch."

'Reincarnated girl' roams as monkey

JAKARTA (R) — A female monkey wearing a gold necklace and earrings and roaming a West Java town is believed by residents to be the reincarnation of a 16-year-old schoolgirl, the Jakarta Post said Thursday. The girl's parents have offered a hefty reward to anyone who can catch the monkey and turn her back into their daughter, it said. The parents claim the girl died and became a monkey when she put on the family's "magic robe" without permission. Residents of Sukabumi told police they had never before seen a monkey wearing jewellery and nobody seemed able to capture the animal. But police say it may have come from a nearby agriculture academy.

Bank secretary charged for faked kidnapping

PARIS (R) — A French woman who claimed she was held hostage for eight days after being seized at a Paris bank was on Thursday charged with attempted extortion and contempt of court, judicial sources said. They said bank secretary Martine Pictri, 36, had been placed in police custody while investigators continued an enquiry into what they now believe was a phoney kidnapping. Pictri first disappeared on July 24 when she seized by an unidentified man from the Paris headquarters of the Banque Worms. She resurfaced eight days later saying she had been kidnapped. The alleged abductor, who police believe was working with Pictri, had first demanded a 10 million franc (\$1.5 million) ransom for the secretary's release. No money was paid. In calls to the police, a man calling himself "Mr. Lemerrier" said he had attached explosives to her body and would blow her up if a ransom was not paid by the bank.

Chinese train stewards face rape charges

PEKING (R) — Police have arrested four train stewards on charges of raping passengers on long-distance journeys. The China Legal News said the men from the east China city of Tianjin were accused of raping three passengers including a young student in the stewards' compartment during June and July. One victim took poison after an attack in an apparent suicide attempt, but was saved by emergency medical treatment. Convicted rapists in China commonly face long prison terms or execution.

New Colombian president vows to fight drug trafficking, terrorism

BOGOTA (AP) — Virgilio Barco became Colombia's 101st president on Thursday, promising to help the poor, eliminate death squads, fight drug trafficking and terrorism and promote human rights.

Mr. Barco, 65, took the oath of office just across the Bolivar Plaza from the Palace of Justice, where 95 people, including 11 supreme court justices, were killed in November during a takeover of the building by leftist guerrillas.

Several hours before the ceremony, Mr. Barco met with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. Afterwards, Mr. Shultz told reporters that Barco shares the U.S. determination to combat drug trafficking and terrorism.

"Drug trafficking and

terrorism, serious crimes against mankind are one of the main concerns of all nations," Mr. Barco said in his inaugural address. "We shall continue to join in all efforts made by the community of nations to save our civilisation from their disastrous effects."

Mr. Barco indicated that he will continue a programme started by his predecessor, Belisario Betancur, of offering amnesty to leftist guerrillas, and said an agency would be created to help the former insurgents.

But he indicated that those who do not accept amnesty will have to face the army.

There are about 20,000 leftist rebels in this South American country of 30 million.

China denies Indian charges

PEKING (AP) — The Foreign Ministry on Friday denied accusations that Chinese troops had encroached into Indian territory along the disputed border between the two nations.

A ministry official, who declined to be identified further, said the Indian accusations referred to land which "has always been part of Chinese territory."

The New Delhi government on Wednesday accused China of building a helicopter landing pad in Indian territory in Sumdorong Chu Valley in northern Arunachal Pradesh state bordering Tibet.

In June, India also lodged a diplomatic protest with China, alleging that Chinese troops and agricultural workers had intruded

into the same area.

China in July denied the claims and said the troops are on the Chinese side of the disputed boundary.

"The aforesaid vicinity has always been part of Chinese territory," the ministry said in a statement Friday. "It is not only well north of the Sino-Indian traditional customary boundary, but also located on the Chinese side of the line of actual control of the two sides."

The statement did not mention the helicopter landing pad. China claims 90,000 square kilometres of Arunachal Pradesh state. Chinese troops entered the region temporarily during a 1962 border war, but later withdrew.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A98 ♣AJ652 ♢9 ♣AQ98
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♣ 3 ♣
Pass Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AKQJ765 ♣7 ♢4 ♣AKQJ
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one heart. What action do you take?

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠9 ♣Q6 ♢A8543 ♣Q8552
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
1 NT Pass Pass 2 ♠
Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠KQ7652 ♣7 ♢AJ10532
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
Pass Pass 1 ♠ Pass
4 ♣ Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠97 ♣AQ876 ♢AS ♣AK93
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
Pass Pass 1 ♠ Pass
4 ♣ Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠J7522 ♣83 ♢10973 ♣84
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 NT Dble Rebl ?
What action do you take?

Look for answers on Monday.